

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 2908E – Approaches in Legal Studies

TERM: Winter 2023

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002

CLASS: Day & Time: Tuesdays at 6:05 PM to 8:55 PM
Room: Online

Lectures in this course will include pre-recorded videos and weekly live sessions held during our scheduled class time via the Zoom conferencing platform.

INSTRUCTOR: Jean-Simon Schoenholz
Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP

CONTACT: Office: Room B442 Loeb Building (Contract Instructor's Office)
Office Hrs: By appointment (via phone or Zoom)
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CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the legal research process and analysis of legal methodology; finding and analyzing primary and secondary legal sources. Students are strongly encouraged to take this course in the second year of their program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Law Program at the Department of Law at Carleton University is firmly grounded in a “legal studies” approach which situates law in its social, economic, political and historical contexts. As such, courses focus not just on ‘what the law is’ in a particular area but also on a range of academic and practical considerations: How does the law ‘as it is’ reflect particular (normative) visions of society and distributions of power within it? How and why does law change? How is the law ‘on the books’ operationalized (e.g., by the police or business-people) and experienced by ordinary people in everyday life? How do the narratives of law (e.g., judicial decisions) communicate cultural meanings in our society? How do law and legal processes interact with other institutions in our society? Who creates law – and is all ‘law’ (in the sense of regulation of conduct) formally prescribed law?

Engaging with questions such as these requires that students are able to deploy a range of effective research skills and strategies.

The Department offers two research courses to assist students to master their law discipline. This course, Laws 2908, introduces students to legal materials in legal studies research. By this we mean judicial decisions (cases), legislative instruments (statutes and regulations), government documents (including Parliamentary materials and policy), and secondary sources published in academic journals. It also addresses 'legal method' in comprehending and working with these materials. This course is compulsory for all students majoring in a Law or Law Honours programs. A second course, Laws 3908, offered at the 3000 level, introduces students to a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, including the use of social science research sources and methods in legal studies and more advanced consideration of theory in legal research.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 9th ed (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2018) [The McGill Guide]. This text explains the basic rules of legal citation. It is an essential reference text for anyone conducting research concerning legal issues.

Access to a copy of the McGill Guide will be necessary to complete many practical exercises and class assignments.

2. Required readings will include articles and cases. These readings are indicated on the Schedule of Lectures and Tutorials (appended). Students will be expected to retrieve copies of these readings (they will all be uploaded to Brightspace) and read them in preparation for the appropriate lectures and tutorials.

You are responsible for reviewing these before viewing the lectures or tutorials they are meant to support.

OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. Craft an effective research question in legal studies related to the assignments required in the Law Program;
2. Outline effective research strategies for shaping a research project in legal studies at the undergraduate level;
3. Find primary legal materials, government documents, and secondary academic literature related to their research questions;
4. Read legal materials through a "research lens" – identify and state key components of these materials and their purpose, function and 'status' and their relevance to the research undertaken;
5. Recognize the quality/authority of legal materials and find the most authoritative sources of law – for example: update legal cases using citators; determine if legislation is in force or amended;
6. Relate legal materials to legal studies research projects – identify core principles and arguments used; strengths and weaknesses; how the source assists in working towards an answer to a legal

- studies research problem;
7. Apply legal materials to research projects and mobilize them in crafting critical academic argumentation and analysis.

During this course, students will be introduced to various elements of the research process through a series of lectures, tutorials, workshops and assignments. They will learn how to design a research question grounded in the context of law in Canada. In addition to developing skills and techniques in accessing traditional and electronic research resources, students will be required to reflect upon conceptual or theoretical dimensions of research. Ultimately, students should develop the ability to identify, find, analyze and apply the information necessary to conduct research in the field of Canadian legal studies using legal materials.

As research (and curiosity about the world around us) is a general life skill, we hope that this course will also provide students with important skills that will serve them in their other courses and future endeavours.

COURSE FORMAT

We will be adapting the course to provide an accessible online experience including both live and pre-recorded components. This is meant to provide flexibility to each student's current circumstances while maintaining the interactive nature of the class.

There are three components to each week's course content:

- 1) Pre-recorded lecture: A pre-recorded lecture will be posted on Brightspace. It will present the substantive course material for the week. The lecture will be posted at least a week ahead of the corresponding "live" component of the class.
- 2) Pre-recorded tutorial: A pre-recorded tutorial, addressing practical legal research skills, will be posted on Brightspace. It will also be available at least a week ahead of the corresponding "live" component.
- 3) Live Discussion (via Zoom): The content of the live session will vary from week to week but may include discussion of the class content, practical exercises and group discussions. There will be one Live Discussion per week. See schedule below.

It is imperative that students view both the pre-recorded lectures and tutorials before the corresponding live discussion.

Students are strongly encouraged to bring any and all questions to the live discussion, so the entire class can benefit. Live sessions will be recorded and posted to Brightspace for those who cannot attend.

Students are encouraged to use audio and/or video to engage with the instructor during the live sessions, as they feel comfortable.

IMPORTANT: COURSE EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE CONTENT COVERED IN EACH OF THE THREE CLASS COMPONENTS.

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Department and of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Department and the Dean.

This course is DEMANDING AND INTENSIVE. It will require considerable ongoing attention every week. Generally there is something DUE EVERY WEEK. These components are explained in detail below. Please review carefully and note all requirements and due dates.

We know that this is a lot of work and that the course may seem much heavier than your other courses. However, this course is foundational in your Law Program. It is designed to provide you with the opportunity to develop research skills and understanding that will serve you well in your other law courses. The course is also designed to encourage you to stay engaged with the material being covered each week. Notably, the evaluation of the course is weighted to reward those students who stay engaged, submit the weekly exercises on time, and participate in live sessions.

Evaluation Component	Value	Due Dates
<p><u>Lecture Quizzes</u></p> <p>There are 10 short online Lecture Quizzes that are based on the content covered each week.</p> <p>Each Quiz gets activated the day the Live Discussion and Q&A for that week is scheduled in the course schedule below.</p> <p>All Quizzes (*except for week 11) stay open for only one week. You have one hour to complete each Quiz.</p> <p>Each Quiz is worth 1.5 marks out of your final grade. Only the top 8 quiz scores will count towards your final grade.</p>	12%	Week 2: January 24 Week 3: January 31 Week 4: February 7 Week 5: February 14 Week 6: February 21 Week 7: March 7 Week 8: March 14 Week 9: March 21 Week 10: March 28 Week 11: April 4
<p><u>Tutorial Exercises</u></p> <p>Most weeks, students will be asked to complete practical skill-building exercises meant to practice what is covered in the pre-recorded tutorial. Exercises will be posted and completed on Brightspace.</p>	10%	Week 2: January 24 Week 3: January 31 Week 4: February 7 Week 6: February 21 Week 7: March 7 Week 8: March 14 Week 9: March 21

<p>Students who satisfactorily complete five exercises will get a full grade. Marks will be deducted for incomplete or unsatisfactory exercises.</p> <p>Exercises should be completed before the week's Live Discussion and Q&A. They will not be accepted later than a week after the corresponding Live Discussion and Q&A.</p>		
<p><u>Tutorial Workshop Preparation Exercises</u></p> <p>Tutorial workshop preparation exercises must be completed prior to the corresponding Live Discussions and Q&A session. The completed exercises must be submitted via Brightspace by 6pm the day they are due. They are worth 4 marks each.</p>	8%	<p><i>Cases Analysis Workshop Prep Exercise: February 7</i></p> <p><i>Article Analysis Workshop Prep Exercise: March 21</i></p>
<p><u>Assignment 1: Case Brief and Analysis</u></p> <p>This assignment will require students to summarize and analyze a judicial decision in a case to be assigned by the instructor.</p>	30%	February 13 at midnight via Brightspace.
<p><u>Assignment 2: Secondary Source Summary and Literature Review</u></p> <p>This assignment will require students to summarize a journal article assigned by the instructor and prepare a literature review based on a related research topic.</p>	40%	April 12 at midnight via Brightspace.

Important Notes on Evaluation

You must provide meticulously correct citations compliant with the McGill Guide in Assignments. **Marks will be deducted in each assignment if citation is not fully correct.** Marks will also be allocated for effective writing.

Please keep a copy of all assignments and other submissions until your final grade is confirmed.

Individual work only!

All components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade. This means that failure to submit one of the two assignments will result in a failing grade.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Late Assignments will be penalized as follows:

- Deduction of 5% for late on the next day.
- Further 10% deduction for each subsequent day.
- If the Assignment is handed in more than seven days late, it will be accepted towards course completion but will receive **zero** marks.

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor, who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>.

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

To request an extension, students **MUST** send me a request **prior to the assignment deadline enclosing supporting documentation. Only the Instructor can provide extensions.**

SCHEDULE

Subject to revision. Please review carefully and mark down due dates in particular.

Week / Date of Live Class and Q&A	Components	Material	Due
Week 1 (Jan 10)	Lecture: Introduction to the Course Tutorial: Introduction to Electronic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Outline 	N/A
Week 2 (Jan 17)	Lecture: Starting Research in Legal Studies Tutorial: Finding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Brettel Dawson, "Legal Research in a Social Science Setting: The Problem of Method" (1992) 14 Dalhousie Law Journal 445. • Richard F Devlin, "Mapping Legal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Quiz • Week 2 Exercise

	Secondary Sources (Library Databases, Quicklaw, Westlaw)	Theory" (1994) 32 Alta L Rev 602	
Week 3 (Jan 24)	Lecture: Cases I: Reading Cases in Context Tutorial: Finding and Citing Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Davies, "Reading Cases" (1987) 50(4) Mod L Rev 409. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Quiz • Week 3 Exercise
Week 4 (Jan 31)	Lecture: Cases II: Anatomy of a Case Tutorial: Noting-Up Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carter v Canada (AG)</i>, 2015 SCC 5 • UBC Fac of Law – "Introduction to Reading and Briefing a Case" • ALPN – "<i>Ratio Decidendi</i> and <i>Obiter Dicta</i>" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4 Quiz • Week 4 Exercise
Week 5 (Feb 7)	Lecture: Cases III: Precedent, Dissent, Law Reporting Workshop: Analyzing Cases and Using them in Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Saba v Quebec (AG)</i>, 2018 QCCA 1526 • ALPN – "Law Reports" • ALPN – "Updating Cases" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Quiz • No Exercise • Tutorial Workshop Prep • Exercise: <i>AB v Canada (AG)</i>, 2017 ONSC 3759
Week 6 (Feb 14)	Legislation and Gov Docs I: Legislation and Legislative Process Tracking the Legislative Process and Finding Government Docs	<i>Reference re Pan-Canadian Securities Regulation</i> , 2018 SCC 48 at paras. 1 to 81 (focus on paras. 54-58).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Quiz • Week 6 Exercise • Assignment 1: Case Brief DUE February 13 at midnight.

FEBRUARY 21 – READING WEEK			
Week 7 (Feb 28)	Legislation and Government Docs II: Interpreting Legislation Finding and Noting Up Legislation	Ruth Sullivan, <i>Statutory Interpretation, 2nd ed.</i> (Irwin Law, 2007) pp. 5-13, 40-48. Ruth Sullivan, <i>Sullivan and Driedger on the Construction of Statutes, 4th ed</i> (Toronto: Butterworths, 2002) pp 613-624. Downie and Chandler, <i>Interpreting Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying Legislation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 7 Quiz • Week 7 Exercise
Week 8 (March 7)	Legislation and Government Docs III: Administrative Tribunals Tutorial: Understanding Administrative Tribunals	<i>Appellant v Regional Health Authority, MAID Program</i> , 2017-MHAB-001-OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 8 Quiz • Week 8 Exercise
Week 9 (March 14)	Secondary Sources I: Analyzing Secondary Sources Workshop: Writing, Editing and Research Hygiene	Juliet Guichon et al., "Autonomy and Beneficence in Assisted Dying in Canada: The Eligibility of Mature Minors" (2017) 54:3 <i>Alta L Rev</i> 775. Pamela Samuelson, "Good Legal Writing: Of Orwell and Window Panes" (1984) 46 <i>U Pitt L Rev.</i> 149.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 9 Quiz • Week 9 Exercise
Week 10 (March 21)	Secondary Sources II: The Literature Review Workshop: Analyzing Secondary Sources and Using them in Research	Andrew S Denney & Richard Tewksbury, "How to Write a Literature Review" (2013) 24:2 <i>J Crim J Educ</i> 218. Hendry et al., "Why do we want the right to die?" (2012) 27:1 <i>Palliative Medicine</i> 13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 10 Quiz • No Exercise • Tutorial Workshop Prep Exercise: Katrina George, "A Woman's Choice? The Gendered Risks of Voluntary

			Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide”
Week 11 (March 28)	International Law – Sources and Research	Human Rights Committee, <i>General comment No. 36 on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to life</i> (draft) UN – “Explanation of Human Rights Treaty Bodies”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 11 Quiz • No Exercise
Week 12 (April 4)	Open Session	Make-up class (if required) OR office hours (by appointment)	
Week 13 (April 11)	Summary/Wrap Up		Assignment 2: DUE April 12 at midnight

Winter 2023 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i> https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/	
January 9, 2023	Winter term begins.
January 20, 2023	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
February 20, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
February 20-24, 2023	Winter break. No classes.
March 15, 2023	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
April 7, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 12, 2023	Winter term ends. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.
April 15-27, 2023	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 27, 2023	All final take-home examinations are due on this day.

University and Departmental Policies

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements:
<https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art

works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy Obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

Religious Obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities](#) (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to

exist. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.