

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2908 D - Approaches in Legal Studies I
TERM:	Winter 2025
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002 (Formerly LAWS 1000 - no longer offered)
CLASS:	<p>Day & Time: This course is asynchronous and will run online on Brightspace. Please check the course page in the beginning of the term. It is your responsibility to keep track of the course materials posted on Brightspace. New content will be released weekly.</p> <p>Essential: you must have a computer and a high-speed Internet connection to complete this course. The instructor and the TA cannot troubleshoot technical issues for you.</p> <p>Room: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule. The recorded materials will be released weekly by Tuesdays 5 PM at the latest.</p>
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Ksenia Polonskaya
CONTACT:	<p>Office Hrs: Office Hours with the instructor will be available twice a month (see Brightspace for the schedule) via Zoom. The TAs will run additional office hours weekly via Zoom. The TAs for this course are: Huinie Pan, huiniepan@cmail.carleton.ca Rory Palau Zea, RoryPalauZea@cmail.carleton.ca</p> <p>Email: Ksenia.polonskaya@carleton.ca</p>
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/285150

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to interdisciplinary research and analysis in law and legal studies; 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

This course will focus on practical and theoretical aspects of legal research. As a participant of this course, you will learn about different methodological approaches in legal studies, explore different sources of law, and develop analytical skills. We will discuss citations, noting up cases, and different aspects of legal writing.

Please note that this is an asynchronous course that runs online. It means that you must have a lot of self-discipline to go over the materials and prepare for classes. Please take advantage of the weekly office hours with the TAs to ask questions about the citations & concepts that are not clear to you.

What to Expect?

This course will run online in an asynchronous format. It includes 11 modules. Each module includes approximately 1 hour 10 minutes to 2 hours of recorded materials. Some lectures can be shorter than others. This is intentional to ensure that you are not overwhelmed by the amount of content and able to manage weekly participation tasks.

As a participant of this course, you are expected to review the recorded materials and mandatory readings, participate in the discussions on Brightspace, complete the quizzes, and other assignments in compliance with the deadlines specified in the Syllabus. For further particulars, please consult the section “Evaluation” and Brightspace.

My recommendation is to stick with the schedule as close as possible to ensure a timely completion of all course elements.

Time Zone

We follow local time in Ottawa. It is your responsibility to make sure you submit your assignments in a timely manner.

Technical Aspects of the Course

Please note that this course requires access to the **high-speed Internet** and a **working computer**. Please note that a phone and/or a tablet will not be sufficient to complete this course. In case of technical difficulties, please contact Carleton Technical Support. Your TAs and your instructor cannot provide any technical assistance.

Communications

Emails. I respond to emails within 48 hours during regular working hours 8:30 am to 5 pm EST, Monday to Friday. I will not respond to your queries outside of the regular working hours even on the deadline days. If you send your email on the weekend, please wait until Monday to get a reply. I do not respond to emails during scheduled breaks and statutory holidays. The same policy applies to communications with the TAs. Please plan your communications accordingly.

Emails requesting extensions

Please send your extension requests at least two days in advance of the deadline specified in the Syllabus. Please send your request directly to me by email at ksenia.polonskaya@carleton.ca and to the TA, Huinie Pan, huiniepan@cmail.carleton.ca. You must also fill out the [Academic Consideration for Coursework Form](#) where you should state the reasons for an extension. The extensions are not guaranteed and will be granted only on the basis of equitable circumstances.

Brightspace Announcement Board. Please note that I will use the Announcement Board to communicate with the course participants. Please keep an eye on the announcement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Develop skills in legal research and writing
2. Analyze cases critically
3. Critically analyze different methodological approaches in legal studies

PRECLUSIONS

Precludes additional credit for LAWS 3907 (no longer offered)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation, 10th ed [The McGill Guide].

Please make sure that you are using the 10th edition. You must purchase a copy of the McGill Guide. The Guide is available at Carleton Bookstore and via [Amazon](#). The price of the Guide is approximately 119 CAD. You are welcome to buy used copies, just make sure it is the 10th edition of the Guide.

In addition, please consult the section “Schedule” to find other mandatory readings. Other mandatory readings will be available via ARES and Carleton Library. It means that they are free to use.

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.

All components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade.

Assignments	Mark	Deadline
Introduction Forum & Reply to Your Peer	2%	By 17 th January 2025, 5 PM

Please access Brightspace to review further particulars		It is a very easy mark! No extensions are possible.
<p>Participation Marks</p> <p>The students will obtain the participation marks throughout the course by completing participation tasks on Brightspace. I will evaluate informed participation. It means that you should answer questions without including irrelevant information. You must rely on the course materials in your answers. Please consult the Syllabus for weekly deadlines.</p>	15%	Please note check Brightspace regularly as there can be weekly deadlines. Please consult Brightspace for further particulars. No extensions are possible for the participation marks. Participation tasks can include participation questions embedded in the recordings, participation forums, short reflections, and other types of tasks.
<p>Tutorial Assignments</p> <p>Three short assignments (up to 800 words each) that will require you to conduct some research to answer questions/ format citations. They will be evaluated based on correctness.</p>	15% (3*5%)	<p>Tutorial 1 – 30 January 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Tutorial 2 – 28 February 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Tutorial 3 – 31 March 2025, 5 PM.</p> <p>Extensions longer than 5 days are impossible. Please follow extension policy specified below.</p>
<p>Quizzes</p> <p>Quizzes will be based on your mandatory readings. Each quiz includes 6 questions. Please consult Brightspace for further particulars.</p>	23%	<p>Quiz 1 – 28 February 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Quiz 2 - 28 February 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Quiz 3 - 4 April 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Quiz 4 – 4 April 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>No extensions are possible.</p>
<p>Assignment 1 (Mid-Term Essay + Working Sheet for Sources)</p> <p>The students will be required to write an essay by answering a pre-determined question posted on Brightspace. The word count must be between 1800 - 2000 words (excluding footnotes). This count does not include the Working Sheet for Sources. The word count limits will be strictly enforced. You will lose 1% for each word that exceeds the established limits.</p> <p>Please note that submissions with the</p>	20%	<p>20 February 2025, 5 PM</p> <p>Extensions longer than 5 days are impossible. Please follow extension policy specified below.</p>

word count lower than 1000 words will likely not obtain any mark. Please access Brightspace to review further particulars. The Rubric will be posted on Brightspace.		
Final Exam (online) The examination will be held online during the official examination period. The exam will include 30 questions (multiple-choice, true/false, multi-selection). In addition, the exam can include up to 5 open-ended short answer questions. The questions will be based on the video recordings & mandatory readings. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam. This is a closed book exam. The use of AI is prohibited. Further particulars will be provided on Brightspace later in the term.	25%	Online during the official examination period (April 11-26, 2025).

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

[Deferred final exams](#), which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. To write a deferred final exam, the student must obtain at least C+.

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 short-term extensions, please contact your instructor and TA via email, and also complete the online form at the following link and submit prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>

For more information regarding academic consideration for short-term incapacitation (illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control), please visit the following link: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#academic-consideration-for-short-term-incapacitation>

Quizzes, Participation Marks, and Introductory Forum. Please note that this extension policy does not apply to quizzes, participation marks, and the introductory forum.

Penalties If you submit the tutorials and/or the midterm assignment late without securing an extension, **you will lose 2% of the mark PER DAY**. For example, if you submit your midterm (20%) three days late without an extension, you will lose 6%. It means that your mark will come to 14%. It does not matter if you are late by 1 second, 30 minutes or 12 hours. The standard is objective i.e., if you are late, you will lose 2%. I will accept late submissions only

within 3 days after the deadline specified in the Syllabus. The same policy applies to the forum posts with the due consideration of the relevant deadlines as applicable.

Final Grade Approval

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval 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 Dean.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: 6 – 12 January

Module 1: Introduction & Legal System

Mandatory Readings

- Canada's System of Justice, pp 21-29, [here](#)
- Please review Queen's Research manual "Steps in Legal Research", [here](#)

Week 2: 13 – 19 January

Module 2: Sources & Legal Writing

Mandatory Readings

- Brettel Dawson, "Legal Research in a Social Science Setting: The Problem of Method" (1992) 14 Dalhousie Law Journal 445.
- Please review the McGill Guide, E-1: General Rules

Week 3: 20 – 26 January

Module 3: Primary Sources (Cases)

Mandatory Readings

- *Jones v Tsige*, 2012 ONCA 32
- Queen's Research Manual, please review "Noting Up Cases" and "Case Law Research", [here](#)
- Please review the McGill Guide, E-3 Jurisprudence

Week 4: 27 January – 2 February

Module 4: Primary Sources (Legislation)

Mandatory Readings

- Please review the McGill Guide, E-2 Legislation
- Please review this short infographic on how new laws are created [here](#)
- Please review section “Primary Sources of Law: Canadian Legislation”, [here](#)
- Please review “Summary of Privacy Laws in Canada”, [here](#)

Week 5: 3– 9 February**Module 5: Secondary Sources****Mandatory Readings**

- Ryan Belbin, “When Google Becomes the Norm: The Case for Privacy and the Right to be Forgotten” (2018) 26 Dal J Leg Stud 17.
- Please review the McGill Guide, E-6 Secondary Sources
- Queen’s Framework for analyzing online sources (see ARES)

Week 6: 10 – 16 February**Module 6: Doctrinal Methodology in Legal Studies****Mandatory Readings**

- Ubaka Ogbogu, Sarah Burningham & Timothy A Caulfield, “The Right to Control and Access Genetic Research Information: Does McInerney Offer a Way out of the Consent/Withdrawal Conundrum” (2014) 47:1 UBC L Rev 1.

Reading Week: 17 – 21 February (Winter Break)**Week 7: 24 February – 2 March****Module 7: Historical Methodology in Legal Studies & Research in International Law****Mandatory Readings**

- McGill Guide, E-5: International Legal Materials
- Chapter 3 “Asking Questions” in Zachary Schrag, Princeton Guide to Historical Research (Princeton University Press, 2021).

Week 8: 3 – 9 March**Module 8: Comparative Law Methodology in Legal Studies**

Mandatory Readings

- Ignacio Corone, *The Right to be Forgotten: A Canadian and Comparative Perspective* (Routledge, 2020), see Chapter 2 by Jenifer Stoddart, “Lost in Translation”
- *Dalhousie College v Boutilier Estate* [1934] SCR 642

Week 9: 10 – 16 March**Module 9: Qualitative Methodology in Legal Studies****Mandatory Readings**

- Chapter, “Qualitative Approaches to Empirical Legal Research” in Peter Cane, Herbert & M. Kritzer (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Week 10: 17 – 23 March**Module 10: Quantitative Methodology in Legal Studies****Mandatory Readings**

- Michael Christensen & Ashli Au, “The Great Reset and the Cultural Boundaries of Conspiracy Theory” (2023) 17 *International Journal of Communication* 2348.

Week 11: 24 – 30 March**Module 11: Special Topic. Alternative Dispute Resolution****Mandatory Readings**

- HT Edwards, “Alternative Dispute Resolution: Panacea or Anathema” (1985) 99 *Harv L Rev* 668.

Week 12: 31 March – 6 April**Module 12: Special Topic. Research in International Trade Law Mandatory Readings**

- Meredith Kolsky Lewis, “International Trade Agreements: Laboratories of Innovation or Propellers of Fragmentation?” (2023) 26:1 *Journal of International Economic Law* 110–123.

Policy on Artificial Intelligence

The use of AI in this class is prohibited.

Please note that you cannot reuse your previous work done for other courses in this course. All assignments must be completed individually.

Winter 2025 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 6, 2025	Winter term begins.
January 17, 2025	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in winter courses.
January 31, 2025	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 17-21, 2025	Winter break, no classes.
March 15, 2025	Last day for academic withdrawal from winter courses.
March 25, 2025	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period.
April 8, 2025	Winter term ends.
	Last day of winter and fall/winter classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned.
April 9-10, 2025	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-26, 2025	Final examinations in winter and fall/winter courses will be held.
April 18, 2025	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 26, 2025	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This 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, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you.

For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- <https://wellness.carleton.ca/get-help-now/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

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

Pregnancy Obligation and Family-Status Related Accommodations

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 about the accommodation policy, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities \(EIC\)](#) website.

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, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>.

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. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

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/>.

Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfill the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The University supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented.

Students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. If not satisfied with the instructor's decision, students can conduct an "informal appeal" to the Chair of the department within three (3) working days of an instructor's decision. We have created a webform specifically for appeals to the Chair, which can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/law/application-for-review-of-refusal-to-provide-academic-consideration/>. *Note: This form only applies to LAWS courses and is not the same as a formal appeal of grade.* More information about the academic consideration can be found [here](#).