

**Carleton University****Department of Law and Legal Studies****Course Outline**

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**COURSE:** LAWS 2202 C – Obligations

**TERM:** Winter - 2024

**PREREQUISITES:** LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002

**CLASS:** Day & Time: Fridays 2:35-5:25 pm  
Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Alberto R. Salazar V., PhD  
(CONTRACT)

**CONTACT:** Office Hrs: Fridays 12-1pm and by appointment  
Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 3269  
Email: [alberto.salazar@carleton.ca](mailto:alberto.salazar@carleton.ca)

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

The concepts employed by the law for creating and enforcing legal obligations between persons within society, including contract, tort, fiduciary obligation and restitution. Consideration is given to the role of persons and the role of the state in ordering private legal obligations.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the formation and enforcement of legal obligations in two private law areas, namely, contract law and tort law. The first section discusses the formation of contracts and the performance of contractual obligations. The second section analyzes the concept of tort, the principles of tort liability, and the obligation to compensate tort victims. The study of contract and tort obligations is also placed in the context of the challenges of the modern economy and the role of the state in shaping contract law and tort law.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Neil Sargent, Alberto Salazar, and Logan Atkinson, eds., *Just Between the Law and Us, Volume II: Obligations* (Toronto: Captus Press, 2017), available from the Carleton University Bookstore.

Logan Atkinson and Neil Sargent, *Private Law, Social Life* (Toronto: Lexis Nexis, Butterworths, 2d. Edition, 2007), available from the Carleton University Bookstore.

Materials outside the textbooks are provided via ARES. Please visit the Brightspace course website.

## TEACHING METHOD

This course will combine formal lectures and in-class discussions. A typical session will begin with a lecture. The second part of a session will create opportunities for students to review the key concepts and ideas through open discussions drawing on the course readings and case studies that will be provided. Students will be encouraged to share their ideas, findings, and questions. This method seeks not only to provide students with information about the topics, but also to engage them in the discussion of the materials and to develop their critical and innovative thinking, writing, and speaking skills.

The first section of this course will focus on contract law and contract issues will be discussed in the context of selected case studies. The second section of the course will examine obligations in tort law and will use individual and corporate tort examples.

## EVALUATION

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

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.

- In-Class Mid-Term Exam (February 16<sup>th</sup>): 40% (a list of optional essay-type questions will be provided a week before)
- Final Exam (during the April exam period): 60%

## LAPTOPS AND CELLPHONES IN CLASS

Students are expected to use technology respectfully in class and to consider the impact of their actions on their fellow students and on my ability to deliver a lecture or conduct a class discussion. If a student is using technology in a way that interferes with the learning environment, I may ask the student to curtail the use of any technology.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

**January 12<sup>th</sup>: Introduction**

## CONTRACT

**January 19<sup>th</sup>: Contract and Voluntary Obligation (I)**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 1 (p. 1-21);
- Private Law, Social Life, chapter 3 (p. 49-73)

**January 26<sup>th</sup>: Contract and Voluntary Obligation (II)**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 1 (p. 21-42);
- Private Law, Social Life, chapter 3 (p. 49-73)

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Judicial (and Legislative) Intervention in Contract**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 2 (p.43-67).
- *Uber Technologies Inc. v. Heller*, 2020 SCC 16 (CanLII), <<http://canlii.ca/t/j8dvvf>>

**February 9<sup>th</sup>: Consequences of Non-Performance in Contract (TBC)**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 3 (p.68-81);
- Private Law, Social Life, chapter 7 (p. 153-176)

**A list of optional essay-type questions will be provided as study sheet for the In-Class Test****February 16<sup>th</sup>: IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM****February 23<sup>rd</sup>: NO CLASS (Winter Break: Feb. 19-23<sup>rd</sup>)****March 1<sup>st</sup>: Smart Contracts and Artificial Intelligence**

- REQUIRED:
  - Tatiana Cutts, “Smart Contracts and Consumers”, 122 W. Va. L. Rev. 389 (2019)
  - *Uber Technologies Inc. v. Heller*, 2020 SCC 16 (CanLII), <<http://canlii.ca/t/j8dvvf>>
- OPTIONAL:
  - Andrew Luesley, “Unravelling Smart Contracts: Smart Contracts and the Law of Rescission in Canada”, 2019 19 *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law* 155, 2019 CanLIIDocs 4082, <http://canlii.ca/t/stm0>

**TORT****March 8<sup>th</sup>: The Nature of Tort Law**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 4 (p. 82-105);
- Private Law, Social Life, chapter 4 (p.75-99)

**March 15<sup>th</sup>: Foundations of Liability in Tort (I)**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 5 (p.106-131)

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Foundations of Liability in Tort (II)**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 5 (p. 131-148)

**March 29<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS (Statutory holiday. University closed)**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>: The Public/Private Distinction in Tort Law Revisited: Governments' Duty of Care**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 6 (p.149-189)
- *Sharma by her litigation representative Sister Marie Brigid Arthur v Minister for the Environment* [2021] FCA 560, available online: <https://jade.io/article/812833>. A brief review of the main issues and reasons for finding that the Australian Minister for the Environment owes a duty of care to Australian children so that it must prevent injury or death due to carbon emissions. While this decision was overturned in 2022, it offers ideas that shed light on this issue.
- OPTIONAL:
  - Racist Governmental Algorithms: “Dutch Childcare Benefit Scandal an Urgent Wake-Up Call to Ban Racist Algorithms”, Amnesty (Oct. 25, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/xenophobic-machines-dutch-child-benefit-scandal/>

**April 10<sup>th</sup>: Compensation in Tort Law. Preparation for the Final Exam. LAST CLASS. THIS IS A WEDNESDAY CLASS THAT FOLLOWS A FRIDAY SCHEDULE**

- Just Between the Law and Us: Obligations Chapter 7 (p. 190-214);
- Private Law, Social Life, chapter 7 (p.153-176)

**FINAL EXAM: April 13-25 Examination Period**

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## **University and Departmental Policies**

### **Department Policy**

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations. <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>

### **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.

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

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/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

**Student Services:** The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of MacOdrum Library or online at [carleton.ca/csas](http://carleton.ca/csas)

**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 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](mailto: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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) 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/>