

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 4204 A – Legal Issues in E Commerce
TERM:	FALL 2024
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2908, LAWS 2201, LAWS 2202 and fourth-year Honours standing.
CLASS:	Day & Time: Fridays 8:35 am – 11:25 am
	Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location.
PROFESSOR:	Professor Alberto R. Salazar V., PhD
CONTACT:	Office Hrs.: Fridays 11-12 pm or by appointment
	Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 3269
	Email: alberto.salazar@carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of selected legal topics relevant to the conduct of electronic commerce. Topics include types of regulation, government support, jurisdiction challenges, contract disputes and consumer protection. Court and alternative dispute resolution policy of Domain Names challenges are also included.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar offers an exploration of the legal, economic, and regulatory frameworks that shape electronic commerce in Canada. Students will examine critical topics such as contract law in the digital age, consumer protection against online fraud and abusive practices, privacy and data security regulations, and some issues in comparative e-commerce law. Through a combination of lectures, student presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to navigate complex legal issues in e-commerce, preparing them for careers in law, business, or technology sectors where these insights are increasingly vital.

TEACHING METHOD

The course is largely based on class discussions. The professor will provide an introduction to the topics, explaining the central issues and presenting key questions. This will be followed by students' reading presentations. In every session, two students will discuss the readings under the guidance of the professor. The discussions will clarify, illustrate (with examples and modern applications) and criticize the claims made by the authors. This method seeks to engage students in an intensive discussion of the materials, which in turn will help them develop their critical skills.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING AND DEADLINES

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.

COURSE WORK	WEIGHT	DEADLINE
Research Paper (12-15 double-spaced pages)	40%	Dec. 6 th , 2024 (early submission is encouraged)
Submission of Paper Draft	20%	See schedule
Class Participation (inc. weekly reflections)	20%	T.B.A.
Reading Presentation	20%	T.B.A.

RESEARCH PAPER**The Final Paper**

While the emphasis will be placed on the novelty of the argument and the critical analysis thereof, students should consider the following ideal paper expectations:

1. Topic: free topic but must be related to the course topics, relevant, very narrow!
2. Thesis: clear statement of very narrow argument at the outset (ideally in the introduction), novelty!
3. Research: breadth and depth of research focusing on argument.
4. Analysis: critical, interdisciplinary, depth, focus on argument, logic, balance
5. Originality: novelty, insight, critical, thought-provoking.
6. Evidence: primarily scholarly references to support claims; avoid quotations, instead paraphrase authors' ideas using your own words and citing source.
7. Readings: a minimum of 4 readings from the course kit must be cited. References to course readings do not necessarily have to be central to the

paper argument. In part, this requirement aims to verify whether students are familiar with the course materials and class discussions. Outside readings are welcome.

8. **Organization:** clear structure throughout paper i.e. introduction, development of argument by articulating the key claims with supportive references, conclusion
9. **Style:** clarity, flow, avoid long sentences and paragraphs, correct citation format (McGill format is preferred) and grammar.
10. **Length:** 12-15 double-spaced pages. Please do not waste space and time describing the topic without developing your argument or discussing issues that are not central to the argument of your paper.
11. **Deadline:** Dec. 6th, 2024 (early submission is encouraged)
12. **Submission:** students must submit their final essays by the deadline via Brightspace dropbox. Email submissions of final papers are not permitted. Late submissions will be penalized (i.e. deduction of 2% per weekday).

The Process of Writing the Paper

The process of writing the paper involves three main steps. First, every student will submit her or his paper plan (1-2 pages) according to the schedule. A paper plan must ideally include a narrow topic, a brief theoretical and methodological framework, a potential or working argument, ideas about how the argument will be developed and some initial sources. Second, students will also submit a full-written, well-referenced draft of their papers as required by the schedule. Students must highlight the thesis/argument statement and at least 2-3 key points and references that develop and support the thesis throughout their paper drafts. Feedback on students' draft papers will be provided upon request or during the discussion of papers in class for those who volunteer to present them. Students that have specific questions about their draft or the professor's feedback should consider emailing the professor to seek assistance. The third and last step involves the submission of the revised research papers on the deadline. The schedule is as follows:

Submissions of Paper Plans: Sept 27th, 2024.

Submissions of Paper Draft: Nov. 8th, 2024

Submission of Final Paper: Dec. 6th, 2024 (early submission is encouraged)

Following submission deadlines, students will have the opportunity to present their paper plans and paper drafts during class sessions. This voluntary process is designed to facilitate additional peer and instructor feedback, thereby enhancing the quality of their work.

READING PRESENTATIONS

Every student will give ONE reading presentation. This presentation will take the form of a summary of, or a critical response to, the assigned readings. For every class, there will be, at least, two students presenting on the readings. The first student will provide a brief summary of ALL the readings assigned for the relevant session. The summary should focus on analyzing the central claims and supportive evidence of the authors. The second student (the respondent) will seek to expand or criticize the authors' claims and provide some comments on the presentation of the summary. This response must articulate a view as to

whether the respondent agrees with the authors' claims (and the summary presentation if possible). Drawing on the readings, the strength of the summary presentation and the response should lie in the ability to examine or challenge the authors' views. Students are encouraged to use examples, counterexamples, outside readings, audio-visual materials or other evidence to support their positions on the issues. Both the presenter and the respondent must upload a brief written statement (1-2 pages) of their respective presentations to the Brightspace course website before their presentation date. Both the summary presentation and the response will be graded as part of the 20% portion of the total grade. This grade will mainly reward students' serious efforts to examine the materials. While students must take the materials seriously, there is no expectation that students will understand all the details of the readings.

The schedule of reading presentations will be drafted in the first class and will be posted later. There are approximately 11-12 sessions in the term and it is expected that every student will have the opportunity to give a presentation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This portion of the grade will be based on weekly attendance, informed contribution to the class discussions, and weekly reading reflections. It is assumed that students will attend the sessions having read the materials assigned for each class. Every student must be prepared to provide informed comments on the readings. The professor will verify this by informally asking students to comment on the readings before or during the class discussion. Students' participation will be evaluated throughout each term. Students should consider multiple ways of actively engaging in the class discussion such as raising issues for discussion, asking questions, agreeing or disagreeing with the authors and class presentations, providing answers to important problems, taking minutes of the discussion or presenting examples or counter-examples (e.g. business news) to support a position.

Weekly Reading Reflections: Students must upload a 1-page weekly reading reflection to the Brightspace course website prior to every class. A reflection should show familiarity with the reading materials in any way that the student wishes to consider. These weekly reflections will be marked as part of students' class participation grade.

AI-Robot Participation

The seminar will make use of artificial intelligence to enhance class discussions. We will try to engage ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity to provide ideas, questions or answers to issues arising from our weekly corporate law discussions. AI's input will be discussed, assessed, and challenged in class. Human students are encouraged both to use their local skills, knowledge, and experiences to detect potential inaccuracies, biases, mistakes, or incompleteness in AI's inputs and to surpass it. We hope to engage non-western AI, namely China's robots, that can provide us with a perspective from the East. Discretion about mutual privacy protection, global data collection, and machine learning should be exercised when using AI in class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All the readings materials referred to below are taken from:

Michael Deturbide & Teresa Scassa, *Digital Commerce in Canada* – Student Edition (Toronto: LexisNexis Canada Inc., 2020), ISBN: 9780433490777

This textbook is also available at Carleton's bookstore.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**Sept 6th – INTRODUCTION****Sept 13th – Chapter 1: Electronic Contracts (pp. 3-46)****Sept 20th – Chapter 2: Consumer Protection Online (pp. 47-82)****Sept 27th – Chapter 3: “Smart Contracts” and Blockchain (pp. 83-91)**

- Tatiana Cutts, “Smart Contracts and Consumers”, 122 W. Va. L. Rev. 389 (2019)

Oct 4th – Chapter 4 – A: “Privacy and Data Protection in the Private Sector” (pp 92-121)

- Privacy Challenges in the Digital Environment
- Canada's Privacy Law Context
- The Emergence of Privacy Sector Data Protection Legislation in Canada
- Constitutional Issues
- Coming into Effect
- PIPEDA and the Provinces

Oct 11th - Chapter 4 – A: “Privacy and Data Protection in the Private Sector” (pp 122-161)

- Substantial Similarity
- Scope of Legislation
- Framework
- Application

Oct 18th - Chapter 4 – A: “Privacy and Data Protection in the Private Sector” (pp 162-214)

- Balancing Interests
- The 10 Privacy Principles (up to p. 214)

Oct 25th – NO CLASS (FALL BREAK: October 21-25)

Nov 1st - Chapter 4 – A: “Privacy and Data Protection in the Private Sector” (pp 215-254)

- (The 10 Privacy Principle). Limiting Collection
- PIPEDA in the Courts

Nov 8th – Chapter 4 – A: “Privacy and Data Protection in the Private Sector” (pp 255-282)

- Other Powers of the Commissioner
- Offences
- The Provincial Privacy Commissioners
- Conforming with the Relevant Privacy Organizations
- Class Action Lawsuits for Data Breaches
- PIPEDA and the GDPR
- Privacy Across Borders

Nov 15th – Chapter 5: Content Regulation (pp. 283-322)

Nov 22nd – Chapter 6: Jurisdiction in Cyberspace (pp. 323-361)

Nov 29th – Comparative E-Commerce Law: Europe’s 2022 Digital Services Act

Highlight 3-5 major differences between the Canadian and European approach.

- REGULATION (EU) 2022/2065 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

Dec 6th – LAST CLASS. COURSE REVIEW. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL PAPER

Students must upload their papers to the Brightspace course website by Dec. 6th, 2024.

END OF THE FALL TERM

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

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.

ChatGPT Plagiarism

Students must not reproduce content produced by artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. We will use AI-based detection systems to prevent AI-based plagiarism such as:

<https://etedward-gptzero-main-zqgfwb.streamlit.app/>

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://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://studentcare.ca/rte/en/IHaveAPlan_CarletonUniversityUndergraduateStudentsCUSA_EmpowerMe_EmpowerMe
- 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 (<https://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](#).