

Course Outline

COURSE: **LAWS 1000A – Introduction to Legal Studies**

TERM: **Fall/Winter 2017-18**

PREREQUISITES: **N/A**

LECTURES: **Day & Fridays 11:35am to 1:25pm**

Time:

Room: **River Building Room 2200**

TUTORIALS: **Day & Check your course timetable on Carleton Central to
Time: confirm the time and location of the tutorial session in
Room: which you are registered)**

INSTRUCTOR: **Dr. Vincent Kazmierski**

CONTACT: **Office: Loeb D486**

Office Hrs: **Tuesdays 1-3pm (or by appointment)**

Telephone: **613-520-2600 x. 8297**

Email: **vincent.kazmierski@carleton.ca**

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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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*). **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) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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:
<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

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 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at carleton.ca/csas

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.

<http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Calendar Description: Concepts, sources, nature and function of law; law and social change; historical and constitutional foundations of the Canadian legal system; common and civil law traditions; statutory interpretation and precedent; legal institutions; the role of judges, lawyers and lay persons; accessibility; alternative dispute resolution.

Explanation: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the field of Canadian legal studies. As such, it has two main objectives. A first objective is to provide a basic knowledge of the formal foundations of law and the legal system in Canada. Students will learn about the sources of formal law in Canada, the structure and function of legal institutions, the process of law-making and the various actors in the legal process. As well, students will be introduced to important areas of substantive law (such as criminal law, constitutional law, and contract law). A second objective of the course is to provide students with the tools to begin to think critically about the law and our legal system. Students will be introduced to various theoretical perspectives concerning what law is, how law is “made”, how we experience law, the role of law in shaping relationships between individuals and groups as well as relations between the state and society. The ways in which the law may be manipulated to serve particular societal interests will also be considered. Ultimately, students will consider the role that law plays in either advancing or inhibiting social justice and social change.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and explain several different theoretical frameworks that can be used to examine the different forms and roles of law within Canadian society, including both formal and informal conceptions of “law”
- Identify, explain and critically evaluate the roles and functions of institutions and actors involved in the formal legal system
- Recognize, explain and critically evaluate the formal process of legal rule-making, including the legislative process and judicial decision making
- Recognize, explain and critically evaluate a cross-section of the formal legal rules and frameworks that directly affect the lives of Canadians
- Recognize and critically evaluate the ways in which both formal and informal “law” may be used to affect the distribution of power in society and recognize different ways of assessing the relationship between law and justice and between law and social change

HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning is a dynamic enterprise that requires active participation of both the instructor and the student. Thus, your ability to achieve the learning objectives for this course will depend on both of us to work towards that goal. To that end, I have drafted the following outline of our respective responsibilities in this course:

To give you the best opportunity to fulfill the learning objectives of this course, **I WILL MAKE MY BEST EFFORT TO:**

- Organize the course to facilitate the achievement of the learning objectives
- Engage in the necessary research and preparation to craft informative and engaging lectures/seminars and tutorials using relevant pedagogical strategies and appropriate substantive content;
- Foster a classroom environment that supports interaction and active learning in a respectful and tolerant setting;
- Maintain regular office hours (or reasonable appointments) for those students who wish to meet with me in person;
- Respond to electronic communication in a timely manner (usually within one business day – this means that I don't typically respond to emails on weekends)
- Prepare evaluations (tests, assignments, presentations etc.) that fairly assess your ability to engage with the content of the course and your developing skills as a university student;
- Ensure your assignments are marked in a timely manner (usually within two weeks if possible) and that you receive meaningful feedback where appropriate; and
- Seek appropriate feedback about the course and its content and reflect and act upon this feedback to improve the course when appropriate.

To give you the best opportunity to fulfill the learning objectives of this course, **YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR BEST EFFORT TO:**

- Complete assigned readings or other preparation tasks before class whenever possible;
- Attend class regularly and minimize distractions in class (such as watching youtube videos or updating social media) in order to maximize your ability to interact and engage with the material, fellow students and the instructor;
- Ensure that your interaction with other students and the instructor is respectful and tolerant of opposing views, different ways of learning or participating;
- Ask questions (in person, or electronically) when you are having difficulty understanding the material being studied or if you are uncertain if you have the skills required to complete an assignment or other evaluation;
- Manage your schedule so as to ensure you have adequate time to prepare for class and complete assignments in a manner that reflects your best work (this includes time for research, writing, reviewing and editing written submissions and for practicing oral submissions);
- Ensure that all of the work that you submit for evaluation is your own work and that you provide proper attribution (footnotes etc.) to identify where you have appropriately relied upon the work of others to support your own ideas or arguments;

- Read and carefully consider the evaluation and feedback provided on your assignments; and
- Take responsibility for your own education by taking your courses seriously and devoting the time and energy required to succeed.

REQUIRED TEXTS**Texts Available at the Carleton University Bookstore**

1. P. Fitzgerald, B. Wright, and Vincent Kazmierski, *Looking at Law: Canada's Legal System*, 6th ed. (Toronto: Butterworths, 2010).
2. Steve Tasson et al., *Introduction to Legal Studies*, 5th ed. (Concord: Captus Press, 2015)

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU BUY THE CORRECT EDITION OF THE ABOVE TEXTS – IN PARTICULAR, MAKE SURE THAT YOU BUY THE 5TH EDITION OF *INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES*

EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES

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.

There are six formal evaluation components in this course –three assignments, two multiple choice exams, and attendance/participation in tutorials.

10% - Assignment 1**due Oct. 12, 2017 at noon – submitted through cuLearn**

This assignment will involve writing a short summary and analysis of an academic article that will be assigned by the instructor (approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages).

15% - Assignment 2**due Nov. 23, 2017 at noon– submitted through cuLearn**

This assignment will involve writing a short summary and analysis of a case that will be assigned by the instructor (approximately 5-7 double-spaced pages). Students will be expected to apply the theoretical approaches discussed in the first two months of the class in their analysis.

20% - Fall Exam**The fall exam will take place during the formal fall exam period.**

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

15% - Assignment 3**due March 8, 2018 at noon – submitted through cuLearn**

This assignment will involve writing a short paper (approximately 5-7 double spaced pages) on a topic to be assigned by the instructor.

30% - Winter Exam**The winter exam will take place during the formal winter exam period.**

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

10% - Tutorial Attendance and Participation

Tutorials are held every week. Students are required to attend all tutorials offered. Each tutorial is worth approximately 0.5/10. The mark awarded assesses both attendance and participation in the tutorial.

Note: There will be no make-up assignments or “grade-booster” assignments under any circumstances. Failure to complete all assignments and exams in the course will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course. Deferrals will not be granted unless all assignments have been handed in.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be penalized five percent for each day submitted after the due date (including week-end days).

Students can request an extension on Assignments for serious illness or family and personal emergencies. They will be required to provide official supporting documentation. Students requesting an extension MUST contact the course Instructor prior to the assignment deadline.

Extensions will NOT be granted for computer problems of any kind. I strongly encourage you to back up your work as you go along: email a draft to yourself whenever you finish a segment of work on it or copy it to a USB thumb-drive or an external hard drive.

A cold or the flu is not a sufficient reason for an extension.

Competing workloads in other courses is not a sufficient reason for an extension.

Work schedule or family schedule conflicts are not sufficient reasons for an extension.

APPEALING GRADES ON ASSIGNMENTS:

Students who have questions about the grade they receive on an assignment or who wish to challenge the grade must first make an appointment with the T.A. who marked the assignment within two weeks of receiving the marked assignment. Students must provide their T.A. with a written summary of the specific elements of the marking they wish to question or challenge. The instructor will not entertain appeals of grades that have not been discussed first with the T.A.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

A list of lecture topics and assigned readings will be posted on cuLearn at the beginning of the fall semester. I highly recommend that students complete the assigned readings prior to each week's lecture. My lectures will identify important issues raised in the readings, but will not simply repeat material in the readings. In addition, I introduce material not covered by the readings in my lectures. Students are encouraged to take detailed notes during lectures.

TUTORIALS

Attendance at tutorials is **MANDATORY**. In fact, attendance and participation in tutorials is assigned marks in this course (see below). Tutorials will be used to teach skills necessary for effectively completing the assignments as well as to deal with the substance of the course. Each tutorial group will consist of about 30 students and will be led by a designated Teaching Assistant (T.A.). Assignments will be marked by the T.A. in charge of the student's designated tutorial. Office hours and email addresses for T.A.s will be posted on cuLearn.

CULEARN:

cuLearn will be the primary method of electronic communication with students outside of class. It will be used to post marks, to post announcements, to host email communications and electronic discussion boards. Students should make sure that they sign-on to cuLearn in the first week of classes and should check the cuLearn page for this course on a weekly basis.

A FEW ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS:

- Lectures in this course are designed to complement the texts, not just repeat the same material. As such, it is important to both attend lectures and complete the readings. Students who only complete the readings, but do not attend lectures and tutorials will find it very difficult to do well in this course. Material covered in lectures will be tested in the exams.
- Lectures will be designed to accommodate questions and discussion in class. Feel free to ask questions during the course of lectures. Please remember, however, that questions, comments and discussion in class must remain respectful of the other members of the class.
- This class has close to 300 students in it. As a result, it is very important that students do not engage in disruptive behaviour during lectures. Please refrain from engaging with social media, computer games or video clips during the lecture.
- Students who keep informed of what's happening in the news will get more out of the content discussed in lectures and readings. The material covered in Laws 1000 will be reflected on a weekly basis in the news.

- If you are having trouble understanding the material in the course, speak to your T.A. or the instructor sooner rather than later. We are here to help you learn.
- Another important resource for helping you understand the course is our PASS facilitator. The PASS facilitator is an upper year student who has already taken the course and can help you with strategies to do well in the course. The facilitator's contact information will be posted on Web-CT.
- Students having difficulty with writing assignments should check-out the many resources available on campus to help students succeed. For a guide to these services check out the Center for Student Academic Support (CSAS) website at: <http://carleton.ca/csas/>

Services provided through CSAS include: The Writing Tutorial Service (Library 4th Floor); The Learning Commons (Library 4th Floor); and the Academic Advising (302 Tory).

Please let me know if you have any questions about this course outline. See you in class!