

Course Outline

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| COURSE: | LAWS 3001 A – Women and the Legal Process |
| TERM: | Winter 2026 |
| PREREQUISITES: | LAWS 1001, 1002 |
| CLASS: | Day & Time: Tuesdays 8:35 AM – 11:25 AM Room: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule Class is in person |
| INSTRUCTOR: | Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich, PhD, MBA, LLM, LLB, BAHon |
| CONTACT: | Office Hrs: By appointment via Zoom/Teams or in person Email: Rebecca.Bromwich@Carleton.ca |
| BRIGHTSPACE: | https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/366338 |

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

How the legal process has affected the status of women. Areas of concentration within the Canadian context include the criminal law, citizenship and immigration, education, employment, and welfare and social services.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to key issues, theories and debates concerning gender, feminism and the law, primarily in Canada. Approaching law as a site of regulation and constraint, as well as a tool for feminist practice, we will consider how the law shapes and is shaped by the lives of cisgender and transgender women. We begin by unpacking the premise of “women and the law” and consider current vitriolic legal debates about gender and attempts to use the law to exclude transgender women from public life. We will also consider who gets left out of the “women and law” conversation (e.g. pregnant transgender men), as well as how discourses of gender are leveraged by certain political factions to preclude consideration of cisgender women. The course introduces students to a range of theoretical approaches to women and the law and examines topics ranging from incarceration, reproductive rights and “birth tourism”, human trafficking, #metoo and defamation law, activism and emotion; and the “decertification” of legal sex.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to understand how law shapes and is shaped by gender. By deeply exploring case studies, students will analyze the everyday impact of gendered law and policy.
- Students will read deeply. They will develop academic reading skills and practice engaging in critical discussion about academic texts.
- By proposing and developing a specific feminist law reform, students will apply their knowledge and research skills in practical ways. They will practice evidence-based approaches to problem solving and strengthen transferable advocacy skills.

TEXTS

You do not need to purchase these texts. However, the following are good general resources on the topic of women and the law that lectures and seminar discussions will draw from and which may be useful for your parliamentary brief assignment. They will be made available via the library reserves desk.

1. Kilty, Jennifer M. *Within the Confines: Women and the Law in Canada* . Canadian Scholars' Press, 2014.
2. Antony, Wayne Andrew, and Julie E. Dowsett, eds. *Gender, Race & Canadian Law: A Custom Textbook* . Halifax Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing, 2016.
3. Fineman, Martha Albertson, Jack E. Jackson, and Adam P. Romero, eds. *Feminist and Queer Legal Theory: Intimate Encounters, Uncomfortable Conversations* . Routledge, 2016.
4. Comack, Elizabeth, ed. *Locating Law: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, Connections* . 3rd edition. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2014.

Costs of Educational Material

- o Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

EVALUATION**35% Midterm Essay – Historical Feminist Activism – Critique**

Due February 15, 2026

Detailed instructions and rubric will be posted on. Brightspace
5 pages double spaced; 5 academic sources minimum

40% Final Paper – Parliamentary Brief

Due April 6, 2026

Detailed instructions and rubric will be posted on. Brightspace
10 pages double spaced; 10 academic sources minimum

25% Journal: Participation, Reflection and Self-Assessment

Due April 12, 2026

Detailed instructions and rubric will be posted on. Brightspace
10 journal entries of one to two pages each reflecting on participation in class and class readings

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

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

The granting of extensions is at the discretion of the instructor, who will confirm whether an extension is approved and its duration. For information about requesting short-term or long-term extensions, deferrals for final exams, or academic consideration due to illness, injury, or other extraordinary circumstances, please visit the Academic Consideration Policy page. All requests must be submitted to the instructor before the assignment due date or, in the case of exam deferrals, directly to the Registrar's Office. Full details and instructions can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-policy/>.

SCHEDULE

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Week/Date Theme

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| Week 1 | January 6 | Intro + Conceptualizing Equality |
| Week 2 | January 13 | Feminist and Queer Legal Theories |
| Week 3 | January 20 | Intersectionality and the Law |
| Week 4 | January 27 | Carceral Feminism |
| Week 5 | February 3 | Beyond Sex -Based Rights? |
| Week 6 | February 10 | Queer and Trans (In)Visibility in the Legal |
| Week 7 | February 17 | Reading Week – No Classes |
| Week 8 | February 24 | Emotions and Feminist Legal Activism |
| Week 9 | March 3 | Sexual Assault Trials, #MeToo, and Defamation |
| Week 10 | March 10 | Migration, Citizenship and “Birth Tourism” |
| Week 11 | March 17 | Women and the Carceral State |
| Week 12 | March 24 | Gender and the Legal Profession |
| Week 13 | March 31 | Final Class – Synthesis |

****Reading links will be posted on Brightspace the week before class****

| Winter 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closures | |
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| <i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i> https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/ | |
| January 5, 2026 | Winter term begins. |
| January 16, 2026 | Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) for Winter courses. |
| January 31, 2026 | Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment. |
| February 16, 2026 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| February 16-20, 2026 | Winter break. No classes. |
| March 15, 2026 | Last day for academic withdrawal from Winter courses. |
| | Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines. |
| March 25, 2026 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period. |
| April 3, 2026 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| April 8, 2026 | Winter term ends. |
| | Last day of winter and fall/winter classes. |
| | Classes follow a Friday schedule. |
| | Last day for take home examinations to be assigned. |
| April 9-10, 2026 | No classes or examinations take place. |
| April 11-23, 2026 | Final examinations in fall term courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. |
| April 23, 2026 | 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 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](#).