

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2201 B — Persons and Property
TERM:	Winter 2026
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002
CLASS:	Day & Time: Monday 02:35 pm – 5:25 pm EST Room: Lectures in this course will be delivered using pre-recorded videos that will be made available through our course Brightspace page. Watch videos during the lecture period or any time of your convenience. I plan to hold the first and the last lectures live via Zoom. Please check Brightspace for the current Class Schedule. <u>I will hold a presentation session during the lecture period (Every Monday between 2:35 pm and 4:00 pm) on Zoom. During this time, an assigned group [I will assign groups in the first week] will meet me. The Zoom link for this session will be provided on Brightspace.</u>
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Mahmud M Hasan
TEACHING ASSISTANTS:	Two to Three TAs will assist me with marking-related activities and will be your first point of contact. We may have an Engagement TA to assist with technical issues or accommodation. There will be NO tutorial seminar for this course. TAs may have office hours and contact them through Brightspace email.
CONTACT:	Office D 488 LA (Loeb Building) Office Hrs: Every Friday, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. I encourage virtual meetings. Let me know by email if you would like to talk with me. Allow me 36 hours for a reply. No replies on weekends or evenings. Email: MahmudHasan4@cunet.carleton.ca
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/366321

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Origins and scope of the concept of the person in law and how concepts of legal personality change over time. Origins and scope of the concept of property and how concepts of property change over time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines two broader concepts of private law such as Person and Property. It includes a discussion of the origins and scope of the concept of person and property and how concepts of legal personality and concepts of property change over time. The course emphasizes the idea of legal personhood as constituting the legal subject and the idea of property as the legal object. The personhood of women, slaves, children, and corporations is studied along with origin stories, purposes, and types of property in Canada.

Throughout the term, we will explore questions including: What is the 'legal person'? Why does this construct matter (and to whom)? Who has or has not been a legal person (over time), and thus seen as capable of autonomous legal action and ownership? What is property as a legal construct? What can be owned, by whom, and on what terms? Who or what has been classified as (public or private) property and thus seen as giving rise to claims to exclude others and extract revenue from it? The course will also emphasize the role played by the state in the ordering of private law relations. Some more important issues such as planetary systems, roles of personhood and property law in climate change, pollution, biodiversity conservation, and the destruction of habitat.

COURSE MODALITY & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

This course is an online (mostly asynchronous and synchronous presentation sessions) course where the instructor and students share information, ideas, and learning experiences in a virtual course space. Asynchronous courses do not have live, scheduled meetings online. However, as this is a combined method course, a student must meet the instructor in a live synchronous session ONCE throughout the semester. Students are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. These courses require high-speed Internet access and a computer.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Define the legal concepts of person and property;
- Explain how the concepts of person and property constitute a framework by which law approaches ownership and decision-making;
- Investigate theoretical concepts related to persons and property in private law and key legal materials such as cases and legislation/statutes;
- Analyze and assess different aspects of legal inclusion and exclusion through personhood, property, and ownership using socio-legal concepts;
- Assess scholarly literature on this subject matter and critique the current categorization of persons and property in light of its adequacy to manage current challenges related to persons and property arising from corporate dominance, addressing race and ethnicity, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, planetary systems, ecosystem, and climate change.

REQUIRED TEXTS

T. Brettel Dawson, *Persons and Property in Private Law*, **FOURTH EDITION** (North York, Captus Press, 2023). [List price for print is \$78]

This text (Casebook) is a curated collection of edited readings, cases, and legislation.

This is the only textbook we will follow throughout the semester. Make sure you have purchased the **FOURTH EDITION** of the book. The Casebook book is available as an **e-book or in print**. The Campus Store (formerly Carleton University Bookstore) has reserved books for you to buy.

You can purchase the eBook via the following webpage

<https://www.captus.com/information/eBook.htm>

You are required to read about 30-40 pages every week. To complete course assignments, you will need to use the Casebook readings. Since reading is mandatory in this course, get the book as early as possible. You will not be granted any extension because you have no book or the wrong edition.

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and 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.

Every student in this class must complete the following assessment criteria for full evaluation:

- 1. Group Presentation and Critical Reflection: 15%**
- 2. Reading Quizzes (4 out of 5): 20%**
- 3. Mid-term Exam: 20% [February 23, 2026]**
- 4. Course Reflection Paper: 15% [March 9, 2026]**
- 5. Final Exam: 30% [TBA. To be scheduled during the formal examination period.]**

Total: 100%

Group Presentation and Written Submission: 15%

Every week, a group will present on the required readings of the given week. The presenters of the group will facilitate a small discussion with some discussion questions. Participants may ask questions for any clarification. Each group will have at least 30 minutes to present and facilitate the discussion. The purpose of your presentation is to review and analyze the main arguments and themes in the week's readings and then encourage class discussion. This is a great opportunity for both students and instructors to communicate with each other and analyze the topics more effectively. The presentations will begin in the second class. Scheduling presentations will be done in the first seminar class. You need to address the following questions while presenting:

- 1. Who are the authors of the readings? If there is a case, briefly mention that.*
- 2. Give an overview of the readings. What topics and issues are covered?*

3. *What is the nature of the problem that the authors are trying to address and how this is relevant to the course?*
4. *What are the main claims and arguments of the reading? [If it is a case, discuss the reasoning and arguments of the judgment]*
5. *How are you as the reader/viewer being addressed by the author/s?*
6. *What assumptions are the author/s making about the nature of persons or property?*
7. *How do these assumptions and framing compare and contrast with those in the other readings for that week?*

The oral presentation is worth 10%

In addition to the presentation, you are required to submit a critical reflection of your works and the presentation slide (in a single document) based on the questions posed above for your presentation. Please send your critical reflection (one reflection per group) via email or submit it in class. Your written work should be between 300 and 500 words or two pages. Please write the member's name who contributed at the top of the document.

The critical reflection is worth 5%.

If you don't submit the written portion, the presentation will not be graded.

Reading Quizzes [20%]:

For assessing a better understanding of the reading materials, students will be required to complete online quizzes. The quizzes are comprised of true/false and multiple-choice questions. There may be 10 quiz questions (questions from course readings and lectures) that students should answer for each quiz. A total of 5 weekly quizzes will be available but only your best 4 quiz results will be counted towards your final grades. Each of the three quizzes is worth 5%, for a total of 20% of the final grade. Each quiz question is worth 0.5 points. To get the full 5%, you must have at least 10 correct answers. You can attempt a quiz once only. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** I encourage you to write all the weekly quizzes.

The quizzes will be posted on Brightspace every quiz week on Friday on or after 2 pm and students can complete each quiz any time before 2 pm of the lecture day (see dates in the weekly schedule below). For example, the first quiz, based on Chapters 2 to 5, will be posted on Brightspace on Friday (January 16) and you must finish your first quiz before **2 pm on January 19 (Monday)**. This example applies to every quiz. More information is outlined in the weekly class schedule. Please ensure that you have a secure and reliable internet connection when completing the quizzes as they will be timed. Start your quiz after reading the weekly reading materials. Once the quiz is started online, students will have 30 minutes to complete the 10 quiz questions. They will be marked automatically, and students will receive their results through Brightspace.

Mid-term Exam: [20%]: (Week 1-6)

The mid-term exam will include multiple-choice and true-false questions. Students will be responsible for all the required readings and cases, as well as the material covered by the lectures. However, greater emphasis will be placed on materials covered in the first half (weeks 1 to 6) of the course. Further

information will be provided later in the term. You are expected to answer 20 multiple-choice and true-false questions and some short concepts for this midterm exam during a 90-minute window.

The mid-term exam will be held on **February 23, 2026, during the class time between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm.**

Course Reflection Paper: [15%]

Overview: In this semester, you will craft a Reflection paper that illuminates your analytical, scholarly, and creative insights into how the concepts of personhood and property evolve, shaping legal personality and property concepts over time. This assignment will be a showcase of your distinct perspective and comprehension. It will not only assess your progress but also provide tailored feedback to elevate your future work in this course.

Please note the following important details regarding the Course Reflection Paper:

- The Course Reflection Paper contributes 15% to your total grade, as outlined in the syllabus.
- The deadline for submitting the Course Reflection Paper is March 6.
- Submit your assignment via Brightspace using the designated "Course reflection paper" link.
- Your TA will evaluate and grade your submission, providing written feedback aimed at enhancing your future work in the course for assignments submitted before the due date.

Please review these instructions attentively and regularly, particularly if this type of assignment is new to you. Should you have any inquiries, do not hesitate to reach out via email to either myself or your TA (I highly recommend reaching out to your TA for prompt assistance).

Evaluation and Submission: For this assignment, you are required to submit three separate reflection paragraphs, each consisting of 250-300 words. These reflections should critically and thoughtfully engage with a particular question, concern, or possibility of interest raised by the complete readings. Each paragraph should focus on a specific aspect of the required reading for that week.

Expectations:

- Each reflection paragraph should be a standalone piece addressing a separate issue from 3 distinct week's readings (e.g., choose to write on three of Weeks 1- 9);
- Provide a bold, numbered title for each reflection to distinguish them;
- Clearly engage with course readings and/or themes raised by required readings;
- Ensure your writing is original, well-crafted, and free from obvious grammar/syntax errors;
- Thoroughly reference your reflections with page numbers, citing specific words or passages;
- Demonstrate an intellectual level expected of university undergraduates;

Remember, depth and specificity are paramount. Focus on quality rather than breadth, and strive to produce reflections that showcase your best thought-work on the chosen aspects of the readings.

The paper is due on March 9, 2026.

Final Exam [30%]: [Week 7-12]

You will be asked to answer two to three long questions and some short conceptual questions during the examination period. Please note that the Final Exam on this course will be scheduled by Examination Services at a later date.

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 and complete the relevant forms as required. 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/>.

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

Three types of learning strategies will be followed for this course. First, students are responsible for all assigned readings. I suggest students read the required reading material before each scheduled lecture. Secondly, students should review lecture videos and slides posted on Brightspace. Thirdly, students will participate in all assessments and evaluations.

Weekly Schedule:

Week	Topic	Readings/Chapters	Assessments due	Online or synchronous Presentation
Week 1 January 5	Live session via Zoom Overview of the course: Identify the concepts Introduction and Overview Starting Points: Legal Subjects and Legal Objects Conceptual Framework	Discussion on the syllabus, learning objectives, and assessments. Chapters 1 & 2		
Week 2 Jan. 12	The Legal Person Constructed	Chapters 3		Group 1
Week 3 Jan. 19	Transatlantic Slavery The Corporation	Chapters 4 & 5	Quiz 1 [Chapters 3-5]	Group 2
Week 4 Jan. 26	Women: Personhood and Legal Inclusion	Chapter 6		Group 3
Week 5 Feb. 2	Medical Decision-Making and Legal Person (Indigenous Women and Persons with Disability)	Chapter 7		Group 4

Week 6 Feb. 9	Persons, Property, and Legal Ordering (Endings and Extensions)	Chapter 8	Quiz 2 [Chapters 6, 7 & 8]	Group 5
Feb 16-20	<i>Fall Reading Break. NO CLASS</i>			
Week 7 Feb. 23	Western Concepts of Property and Property Law	Chapter 9	Mid-term exam on Feb 23 (Chapters 1-8) [3:00 pm to 4:30 pm]	
Week 8 March 2	Private Property	Chapter 10	Quiz 3 [Chapters 9, & 10]	Group 6
Week 9 March 9	Private Property: Race and Space	Chapter 11	Course Reflection Paper due	Group 7
Week 10 March 16	Public Property: Colonial Narratives and Legal Fictions	Chapter 12	Quiz 4 [Chapters 11 & 12]	Group 8
Week 11 March 23	Narratives of Indigenous Place and Space	Chapter 13		Group 9
Week 12 March 30	Nature as a Legal Person	Chapter 14	Quiz 5 [Chapters 13 & 14]	Group 10

POLICY ON PERMISSIBILITY OF SUBMITTING SAME WORK MORE THAN ONCE, PERMISSIBILITY OF GROUP OR COLLABORATIVE WORK, AND PERMISSIBILITY OF USING GENERATIVE AI

Students are allowed to re-use a portion of their own work from previous assignments or courses, provided they acquire necessary approvals from the instructor and acknowledge and properly cite the portions that were previously submitted. For instance, if a student has already written a paper on a similar topic, they may incorporate findings or arguments from that earlier work but must indicate where these come from. Students should seek approval from the instructor if they are unsure whether their submission meets the criteria. Submitting work without clear acknowledgment of reused material will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

Students may use AI tools like ChatGPT, but only in specific, limited ways. AI tools can be used to assist with tasks such as gathering ideas, researching initial sources, or proofreading a final draft for grammar and style. However, students are not allowed to use AI to organize or communicate their core ideas. The focus of the course is on developing original thought and critical thinking skills, so AI should not be relied upon for creating the main content of an assignment. Any use of AI must be clearly documented and cited, including the prompts used and how the tool assisted in the process.

Winter 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website: 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](#).