

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 1001 A — Introduction to Legal Studies I
TERM:	Summer 2026
PREREQUISITES:	None
CLASS:	Day/Ti This class is entirely online. Recorded lectures me: will be posted on Brightspace each week. A discussion group (LAWS 1001A01) will meet online synchronous each Monday and Wednesday, from 13:35 to 14:25.
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Umut Özsu
CONTACT:	Office Hours: Wednesday, from 12:30 to 13:30 (online)
	Email: Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca
Brightspace:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/420622

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to legal studies: concepts, sources, nature, and functions of law; historical, cultural, and constitutional foundations of the Canadian legal system; common and civil law traditions; statutory interpretation; precedent; legal institutions; frameworks for analyzing formal and informal conceptions of law and its role in society.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a basic introduction to the doctrinal, conceptual, and theoretical foundations of law and legal studies. As such, it engages with the social, political, and cultural characteristics of law and legal system, exploring the relationship between law and society in a variety of different contexts and from a variety of different perspectives.

Please note that this course consists of **lectures** as well as **discussion groups**.

The lectures are delivered “asynchronously”. This means that there are no live, scheduled meetings for lectures. Instead, recorded lectures are posted on Brightspace each week.

Discussion groups meet “synchronously”. We will hold a discussion group meeting online

each **Monday and Wednesday, from 13:35 to 14:25**. You will need to attend and participate in online meetings each week at these times.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be introduced to the doctrinal, conceptual, and theoretical foundations of law and legal studies: concepts, sources, nature, and functions of law; historical, cultural, and constitutional foundations of the Canadian legal system; common and civil law traditions; statutory interpretation; precedent; legal institutions; frameworks for analyzing formal and informal conceptions of law and its role in society.

REQUIRED TEXT

The only required text for this course is Stephen Tasson et al. (eds.), *Introduction to Legal Studies*, vol. 1: *Foundations and Rights Protection*, Sixth Edition (Concord: Captus Press, 2018). ISBN: 9781553223757. Estimated price: \$43.00.

Paperback copies of this text are available at the Carleton University Bookstore. A very limited number of copies are also available at the Carleton Library, including on reserve. It is important that you have access to the most recent edition of this text, as its contents are significantly different from previous editions. You may also be able to obtain used copies of this text at Haven Books or other second-hand bookstores in and around Ottawa. Without completing the readings, you will not succeed in this course.

EVALUATION

There are four formal evaluation components in this course: two assignments, attendance and participation in discussion group meetings, and a single multiple-choice examination to be held during the formal examination period.

Assignment 1 (25%): A short essay, to be submitted via Brightspace by midnight on Friday, May 22, 2026. This assignment will be evaluated on the basis of a grading rubric.

Assignment 2 (25%): A case brief and analysis, to be submitted by midnight on Monday, June 1, 2026. This assignment will be evaluated on the basis of a grading rubric.

Final examination (30%): An online examination of everything covered in lectures, readings, and discussion group meetings. This examination will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions and you will have 80 minutes in which to complete it. It will be held online during the examination period at the end of the course. The examination will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information about this proctoring service [here](#). The minimum computing requirements for this service are listed on the Scheduling and Examination Services [webpage](#).

Discussion group (20%): You are expected to attend and participate in discussion group meetings. I will take attendance at the beginning of each meeting and also keep track of your participation.

Please note that standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department of Law and Legal Studies and of the Faculty of Public Affairs 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.

All four components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade in the course.

A FEW ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS

- **Stay on top of the reading assignments in this course.** As with most first-year courses, there is a significant amount of reading, and they can pile up quickly and become overwhelming if you do not keep up.
- **Attend discussion group meetings.** Students who attend discussion group meetings regularly do much better in the course than those who do not.
- **Students experiencing difficulties with writing assignments should engage with the many resources available on campus to help students succeed.** These include [Writing Sessions](#) and the [Centre for Student Academic Success](#). They also include the [Learning Sessions](#) program.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

If you would like to request an extension for less than seven days, please complete [this form](#) and submit it to me **no later than 48 hours prior to the relevant due date**.

Extensions longer than seven days will typically not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions longer than seven days are granted, you will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension.

Unless you obtain an extension prior to the submission deadline, **15% will be deducted from your grade on each assignment for every 24 hours past the relevant deadline**.

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

You are strictly prohibited from submitting any work that has been previously submitted for academic credit in another course. Any such submission will result in a grade of 0%, and you will be referred to the university's academic integrity office for review. Re-using any portion of previous work, regardless of its extent, will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

You are not permitted to cooperate or collaborate on the assignments. Any unauthorized collaboration will result in the assignment receiving a grade of 0% and you being referred to the academic integrity office. This policy applies to all tests, exams, and individual assignments. Proof-reading by others is not allowed.

AI use in this course: You may use AI tools for basic word-processing functions, including grammar and spell-checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot).

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that is not listed above, please consult me.

Why have I adopted this policy? This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for lectures:

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Topic and Reading Assignment</u>
Wednesday, May 6	General introduction Social Context: Law in Social Life — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 1
Monday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 13	Cultural Context: Legal Cultures in Canada — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 2 The Constitutional Context: Law, the State, and the Constitution — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 3
Monday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 20	Global Context: The Transnational Influence of Law — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 4 Law, Morality and Justice — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 5

Monday, May 25 and Wednesday, May 27	Law, Liberalism, and Its Critics — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 6 Connecting Law and Society — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 7
Monday, June 1 and Wednesday, June 3	Judicial Decisions and the Common Law — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 8 Interpreting Legislation — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 9
Monday, June 8 and Wednesday, June 10	Citizenship: Who Belongs? Who is Protected? — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 10 Protecting Rights: Inside and Outside the Constitution — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 11
Monday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 17	Law, Rights Protection and Social Change — read <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> , ch. 12 Final exam preparation

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](#).