

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 2302 A –

TERM: Fall 2026

PREREQUISITES:
LAWS 1001 and 1002

CLASS:
Day & Time: Fridays 8:35 - 11:25
Room: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule
Class will be in person

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich

CONTACT:
Office Hrs / Location: By appointment via TEAMS, Zoom, or in person
Telephone:
:
Email: rebeccabromwich@cunet.carleton.ca

Emails will be responded to within 48 hours

BRIGHTSPACE: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/450751>

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

The legal and social dimensions of criminal liability and responsibility in Canada, including issues and problems surrounding *mens rea*, *actus reus*, and the attachment of liability. Excuses and justifications, the *Canadian Criminal Code* and the role of the *Charter* in the criminal legal system.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a complement to LAWS 2301 and will be a venue for further critical analysis and exploration of, the current Canadian Criminal Legal System, including its institutions, processes, rules, and actors. Criminal law will be studied within its general social setting and to examine the interrelationship between the aspirations and practices of Canadian society and its formal legal discourses of criminal law.

The course introduces students to both legal and social dimensions of Canadian criminal law. Sentencing principles and objectives will be discussed, with a look at how they are implemented in practice.

A strong emphasis is placed on practical aspects of the law and how the players within the legal system achieve justice. In the latter part of the course, the focus will be on the criminal law in its more traditional formulations as found in The Criminal Code of Canada and in the cases, along with specific current issues in Canada.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be expected to be able to:

- Communicate in detail an understanding of how the formal discourses of the criminal law are currently employed in Canada's criminal justice system;
- Demonstrate comprehension of, by be able to work with, basic criminal law concepts such as the actus reus and mens rea elements of criminal offences, along with various routes to criminal liability;
- Demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of defences to criminal charges, both from the common law tradition and the Criminal Code;
- Identify ways in which Canada's current criminal justice regime exists in a changing, postcolonial, historical, geographical and social context and be able to critically analyze how that context affects the operation of criminal justice law;
- Demonstrate critical thinking about other possible ways to address criminal offending, with reference to changing approaches in Canada and current regimes in other jurisdictions; and
- Critically analyze representations of criminal behaviour in popular culture and formal legal text.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jaremko Bromwich, Rebecca A *Big (Legal) Picture* (Toronto: Kendall Hunt, 2025) (referred to on reading scheduled as BLP) <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/big-legal-picture-introduction-legal-studies-2>

**** this is an online text that must be downloaded from the publisher at the URL above****

This text costs approximately \$75 and must be purchased from the publisher directly. It is an online text and students purchase a licence. It was developed by the course instructor with a specific view to support Carleton LAWS courses.

Saunders, Ron and Jaremko Bromwich, Rebecca, *Criminal Law in Canada: An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Context 5th Edition*

This book is available for purchase from The Campus Store website for approximately \$225:

<https://carletonshop.ca/Item?item=9780779872985#item=9780779872985>

Used copies of this text are completely acceptable, and there are many affordable copies available. You are welcome to purchase a used copy of the book so long as it is the 5th edition. You may be able to find an electronic copy online. Prices will vary.

EVALUATION

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1. Final Examination 35% - Held in exam period (December 2026)

****exact date to be posted later in the semester****

2. Essay Assignment- Blog Post 40% due October 22, 2026

This is a persuasive essay written in a format for online posting.

**** Selected blogs will be given the opportunity for posting on Robsoncrim.com, offering national exposure for online publication. Selection for this opportunity will be made by Professor.**

3. Participation 25% self-assessment due December 1, 2026

This involves three elements:

- a) Attendance
- b) Participation in class
- c) A reflective self-assessment submitted on December 1, 2026

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.

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

Students who cannot attend on-campus assessments in person may apply to write their exams remotely, if they meet certain criteria.

POLICY ON 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.

POLICY ON GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a useful research tool but it cannot be used to substitute original work by students. You make use AI in your research (in the manner of a search engine) but you must check the original materials referred to or provided in AI searches. Generative AI can make mistakes, including “hallucinations” and it is your responsibility to verify all AI content.

AI may also be used to support your editing and proofreading, particularly to assist in proper formatting of citations.

Your writing must be original and your ideas must be entirely your own. It is not permissible to have AI write your papers.

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

POLICY ON CLASSROOM RECORDING

Students must ask for, and receive, express permission from the Instructor before recording any portion of this course.

SCHEDULE

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Lecture Topic Date Reading

Lecture 1	Introduction and Course Overview; Distribution of Essay Assignment	Sept 11, 2026	BLP Chapter 1 (BLP is an online resource and page numbers are not consistent. Please note it is a brief , back up reference so the chapters are not long and are general)
Lecture 2	Criminal Liability – Actus Reus	Sept 18, 2026	Chapter 6.1 BLP Chapter 5 (all pages in chapter)

Lecture 3	Criminal Liability – Mens Rea	Sept 25, 2026	Chapter 6.2 BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 4	Strict and Absolute Liability Offences	Oct 2, 2026	Chapter 6.1.3 BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 5	Incomplete Offences: Attempts, Counselling and Conspiracy	Oct 9 , 2026	Chapter 6.2

Lecture 6 The Limits of February 11, Chapter 6.3

Lecture 7	Sentencing and Punishment	Oct 16, 2026	Chapter 5(all pages in chapter) BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 8	Defences: Duress, Necessity, Self Defence, Defence of Property, Consent	Oct 23, 2026	Chapter 7.1

October 30, 2026

NO CLASS

Lecture 9	Defences: Mistake of Fact, Ignorance of the Law	Nov 13, 2026	Chapter 7.2
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Lecture 10	Defences: Entrapment; Charter Protections ("Policy" Defences)	Nov 20, 2026	Chapter 7.3 BLP Chapter 1 and 4(all pages in chapters)
Lecture 11	Defences: Incapacity; Provocation, Mental Disorder, Intoxication, Automatism & Exam Review	Nov 27, 2026	Chapter 7.4
Review class and practice question Participation Self-Assessment Due	Submit self- assessment	December 4, 2026	Cumulative review of course material

Final Exam Period

Formally scheduled exam period

December 2026

final exam to be scheduled during this time

Fall 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i> https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/	
September 9, 2026	Fall term begins.
September 22, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) for Fall courses.
September 30, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full fall courses and the fall portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
October 12, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 26-30, 2026	Fall break. No classes.
November 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall, late fall, and fall/winter midterm 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.
November 27, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period.
December 11, 2026	Fall term ends.
	Last day of fall classes.
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for take home examinations to be assigned.
December 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
December 12-23, 2026	Final examinations in fall term courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held.
December 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.

STATEMENTS ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM
(includes group work and substantially the same work submitted twice)

Students may not submit substantially the same work in this class as in other classes. They must also engage in group work actively and not claim authorship of work they did not in fact participate in creating.

Intellectual and academic integrity mean we must approach scholarly work with honesty, curiosity, care, and respect for the ideas of others. Students are expected to distinguish clearly between their own thinking and material drawn from other sources, to acknowledge the origins of ideas, arguments, evidence, and language through appropriate citation, and to represent their research process and findings accurately. Integrity also requires genuine intellectual engagement: asking questions, evaluating evidence critically, acknowledging uncertainty, and developing your own analysis rather than simply reproducing the work of others. The purpose of academic work is not merely to produce a polished answer, but to demonstrate the process of thinking, learning, researching, and forming reasoned conclusions. This expectation applies to all sources and tools used in completing coursework, including digital and generative AI tools.

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
- failing to acknowledge sources with 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 follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a 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](#))

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

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: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

REQUESTS FOR 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](#).

