

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 1001B: Introduction to Legal Studies I
TERM:	Fall 2026
CLASS:	Day & Time: Mondays, 9:35 a.m. - 11:25 p.m. Room: This course is on-line and accessed via Brightspace
INSTRUCTOR:	Jane Dickson, PhD (Law)
CONTACT:	Office Hrs: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:25 p.m. Telephone: 613-520-2600, ex.3686 (messages only) Email: jane.dickson@carleton.ca (please note that email is the most reliable way to contact the instructor; please use this email and NOT the Brightspace email system)
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/450713

Acknowledgement & Affirmation

Anishinaabemowin

Ni manàdjiyànàinig Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom ega wìkàd kì mìgiwewàdj.

Ni manàdjiyànàinig kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàg Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìin Odàwàng.

Ninisidawinawànàinig kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig. Nigijeweninmànàinig ogog kà nìgànì sòngideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

English

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land.

We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home.

We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old. And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present.

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to legal studies: concepts, sources, nature and functions of law; historical, cultural and constitutional foundations of 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.

Lectures and discussion three hours a week. Please note that lectures are prerecorded and can be accessed at your convenience; the online discussion groups are scheduled and you must be able to attend at your discussion group session.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 OUTCOMES

Students who diligently attend lectures and complete the readings assignments should, upon completing the course, 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 rulemaking, 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

*Please note that the 'Introduction to Legal Studies: Foundations and Rights Protections' has been updated but the text may not be available for start of the fall 2026 term (check with the Carleton Bookstore to be certain). The reading list has been adjusted so that you can either use the previous edition or the new one. Any readings omitted from or added to the previous addition and that are assigned are accessible through the links provided in the reading list. The 2018 edition is listed below. We are also waiting on an updated link for the **Ruddell and Pavlich** text. Please keep checking Brightspace as I will provide updates in the announcements and by email as these are provided to me.*

1. Stephen Tasson, Rebecca Bromwich, Jane Dickson, Vincent Kazmierski, Bettina Appel Kuzmarov, Sébastien Malette, Umut Öszu (eds.), Introduction to Legal Studies: Foundations and Rights Protection (vol.1) Canadian Legal Studies Series (Concord: Captus Press, 2018); ISBN 978-1-55322-375-7. This text will be also be available as an ebook through Captus at: <https://www.captus.com/information/ebook.htm>
2. Rick Ruddell, George Pavlich, Exploring Criminal Justice in Canada - Law and Society Redefined, Carleton University Custom Edition (Oxford University Press, 2016 & 2011); ISBN: 9780199015658. This ebook is available through Red Shelf but the link is not yet available. Please check Brightspace in the first week of term for the link.

Please be sure you are purchasing the correct books - checking the ISBN number is the best way to be certain.

EVALUATION

There are four formal evaluation components in this course: two assignments, attendance at discussion groups, and a single multiple-choice online examination accessed through Brightspace and which will be held in the regular examination period in December 2026.

Assignments must be completed and submitted electronically to the appropriate Teaching Assistant via BS by 4:30 p.m. on the due date. Papers submitted in any other fashion will not be accepted. Details of the late submission policy are outlined below.

- **Assignment 1** (20%), due October 2, 2026, by 4:30 p.m. via Brightspace (full details of the assignment will be posted on BS).
- **Assignment 2** (20%), due November 6, 2026, by 4:30 p.m. via Brightspace (full details of the assignment will be posted on BS).
- **Discussion Group attendance and participation** (25%). Virtual discussion groups will be held weekly and will begin in the second week of term. As a general rule, discussion

groups are graded at 2 marks per class – 1 mark for attendance; 1 mark for participation. The former cannot be determined if cameras are off, so please be advised that, save for the most exceptional circumstances and with the knowledge and approval of the TA, cameras must be on to receive marks for attendance. Participation marks can be secured by participating verbally in debates and discussions or posting in the chat. If you are concerned you are not participating adequately, please reach out to the TA sooner rather than later.

- **Final Examination** (35%), multiple choice format covering all topics/materials covered during the Fall Term, written during the formal examination period.

Please note **that tests and examinations in this course will use a remote proctoring service (CoMaS) provided by Scheduling and Examination Services**. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring>.

Please note that the minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows: Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop OS: Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 10.14 or higher; Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge; Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended); Webcam (HD resolution recommended). Note: **Tablets, Chromebooks and Smartphones are not supported at this time. Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.** *It is your responsibility to ensure your hardware meets these requirements.*

Requests to defer the final exam must be made through the Registrar's Office and will be accepted only (1) if the student has completed all course requirements and (2) the cumulative total marks on other course requirements exceeds 50%.

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 other course requirements have been met and the total grade on work to date indicates passing the course is possible.

Late Submission Policy: Deadlines for submission of assignments are set prior to the start of term and clearly communicated in class and in this course outline. It is expected that students will plan accordingly and endeavor to meet those deadlines. Where this is not possible, students may submit the paper late and their grade will be reduced by a late penalty that will accrue at a rate of 2 marks for each day elapsing between the deadline and their submission of the paper via Brightspace. Students are reminded that all course requirements must be met in order to pass the course; thus where an assignment is submitted so late that a grade of '0' is inevitable (e.g., each assignment is worth 20%, so submission 10 days after the due date will be zero), the assignment must be submitted or the student will be unable to pass the course.

SCHEDULE

Week/Date:	Lecture Topic and Reading Assignment:
Law in Context	
1 (Sept.14)	Course Introduction Readings: Course Outline
2 (Sept.21)	Law in Social Life Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection:</i> • The Functions of Law, E. A. Hoebel, • The Cheyenne Way, K. N. Lewellyn & E. A. Hoebel • Conflicts as Property, N. Christie <i>Exploring Criminal Justice in Canada - Law and Society Redefined:</i> • Realizing Sociological Jurisprudence, pp.149-164
3 (Sept.28)	Cultural Context Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection:</i> • The Environment of Canada's Judicial System, P.H. Russell • By Reason of Authority or By Authority of Reason, C. L'Jeuneux-Dubé • Societal Norms Offer a Frame of Reference, G. Bouchard & C. Taylor
4 (Oct.5)	The Constitutional Context Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection:</i> • <i>Reference re the Secession of Québec</i> • <i>Roncarelli v. Duplessis</i> • <i>Reference re the Firearms Act (Can)</i> https://www.constitutionalstudies.ca/2009/06/reference-re-firearms-act/?print=print • Legal Pluralism in Canada, J. Borrows
Looking at Law: Different Lens for Law and Legal Studies	
Oct.12 Thanksgiving, no classes on Monday	
5 (Oct.19)	Law, Morality and Justice Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection:</i> • <i>Tragic Choices</i>, P.F. Fitzgerald • <i>R v. Dudley & Stephens</i> • <i>R v. Latimer</i> <i>Exploring Criminal Justice in Canada - Law and Society Redefined:</i> • Natural Law: Morality and Law, pp.121-123
6 (Oct.26)	FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES OCTOBER 26-30

7 (Nov.2)	Law's Liberalism and its Critics Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection</i> : • <i>Christie v. York Corp.</i> • Racially Based Jury Nullification: Black Power in the Criminal Justice System, P. Butler • Perpetuating the Cycle of Abuse: Feminist (Mis)use of the Public/Private Dichotomy in the Case of Nixon v. Rape Relief, U. Khan
8 (Nov.9)	Connecting Law and Society Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection</i> : • Taking Law and _____ Really Seriously... C. Menkel-Meadow • Law and Society, B.Tamanaha https://books-scholarsportal-info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/en/read?id=ebooks/ebooks2/wiley/2011-12-13/4/9781444320114#page=383 <i>Exploring Criminal Justice in Canada - Law and Society Redefined</i> : • <i>Positing Law</i>, 134-148
Making Law: Judicial Decisions and Legislation	
9 (Nov.16)	Judicial Decisions and the Common Law Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection</i> : • Precedents, Statutes, and Legal Reasoning, F.L. Morton • The Case System, K. Llewellyn
10 (Nov.23)	Interpreting Legislation Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection</i> : • Remarks on the Theory of Appellate Decisions and the Rules or Canons about How Statutes Are to Be Construed, K. Llewellyn • <i>Re Rizzo v Rizzo Shoes Ltd</i> [1998] 1 SCR 27 • <i>R v Mills</i> [1999] 3 SCR 688 • The Legacy of the Modern Principle in Canada, S. Beaulac & P. Côté (PDF posted in Brightspace)
Law, the State and Citizens	
11 (Nov.30)	Citizenship: Who Belongs? Who is Protected? Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection</i> : • T.H. Marshall and His Critics: Reappraising 'Social Citizenship' in the Twenty-first Century, Ben Revi (2014) 18:3-4 <i>Citizenship Studies</i> https://www-tandfonline-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/epdf/10.1080/13621025.2014.905285 • <i>Iati-Onkwehonwe</i>: Blood Quantum, Membership and the Policies of Exclusion in Kahnawake, J. Dickson

12 (Dec.7)	Protecting Rights: Inside and Outside the Constitution/Course Summary & Exam Prep Readings: <i>Foundations and Rights Protection:</i> • The Somerset Case, U.K National Archive • <i>Baker v Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)</i>[1999] 2 SCR 817 • The Concept of Human Dignity, P.E. Trudeau • It Takes a Vision: The Constitutionalization of Equality in Canada, C. L'Heureaux-Dubé
13	Course Summary and Exam Preparation – Live ZOOM Monday December 7 Topic: Laws 1001B F2026 Live Exam Prep and Q & A 12:30-2:00 Time: Dec 7, 2026 12:30 PM America/Toronto Join Zoom Meeting https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/96193097864

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Department Policies and Regulations

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>

Use of Previously Submitted Papers:

Submitting previously evaluated work, in whole or in part, is not permitted, and you will receive a zero.

Generative AI Tools (e.g. ChatGPT):

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is a violation of academic integrity standards.

Group Work:

The use of group work is not permitted. Students must individually submit their own work.

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 and a notation on the student's record.

Statement of 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.

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergency-numbers/>

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/>

Indigenous Resources:

- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/> This resource provides wellness supports for Indigenous persons as well as additional links to culturally-informed and community-based resources

- The National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is available to former students of Indian Residential Schools and their family members 24/7 at 1-866-925-4419 (click to call)
- The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis line is available 24/7 at 1-844-413-6649 (click to call)

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/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic Accommodations

The instructor recognizes that students may on occasion require accommodations to meet course requirements. As a general rule, the university oversees and ensures accommodations and it is not necessary to discuss these in detail with the Instructor. If you have a university-approved accommodation that requires Instructor support, please inform the Instructor via email within the first two weeks of the term or as soon as you are aware an accommodation may be required. For more information about academic accommodations, please consult the Equity Services website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

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

Fall 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closure

Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear>.