

COURSE: LAWS 4302A | Corporate Crime

TERM: Fall 2026

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 2908, CRCJ 3001, or CRCJ 3002 and fourth-year Honours standing

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Fridays 8:35am-11:25am
 Room: **Please check Carleton Central for current class schedule.**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stacy Douglas

CONTACT: **Office Hrs:** Fridays 11:45-12:30pm
 Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 8028
 Email: Stacy.Douglas@carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Legal, policy and theoretical perspectives on the regulation of corporate crime. Nature and causes of corporate crime. Selected case studies on the role of the state in regulating corporate behaviour. Failure of the criminal justice system to respond to corporate crime.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is corporate crime? How do we define it? This course will compare competing theories and analyses of “corporate crime”, as well as potential remedies. Students will study theory, case law, and conduct their own analysis of contemporary issues before the Competition Bureau of Canada.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All texts are available through Ares (accessible through our Brightspace page).

EVALUATION

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.

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Attendance & Participation	10%	Throughout
Quizzes*	20%	Throughout, in class
Midterm Exam	30%	19 October, in class
Final Exam	40%	Winter exam period

* There will be four quizzes done during seminars throughout the term. The four quizzes will take place on: 25 September, 9 October, 20 November, and 4 December.

GRADING

The following percentage equivalents apply to all final grades at Carleton:

A+	90-100	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	57-59	
A	85-89	B	73-76	C	63-66	D	53-56	F 0-49
A-	80-84	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-	50-52	

When I grade your assignments I will be marking with the following criteria in mind:

Style

Has the author taken care in their formatting, grammar, attention to word count, and appropriate referencing? Where appropriate, have they attempted to infuse their work with creative flourish?

Structure

Has the author laid out a clear and effective argument for their reader? In particular did the author begin with a clear introduction and overview of their supporting points, and use signposting throughout? Is it a convincing argument overall?

Content

Has the author understood the material and conveyed it effectively to their reader? Have they supported their interpretations with page references and other academic sources?

Research

Has the author demonstrated a thoughtful and meticulous approach to their research? Have they been intellectually honest about their sources by seeking out primary material and bolstering their interpretation with appropriate secondary sources?

Critical Analysis

Has the author been able to understand the material, communicate about it clearly, **and** use their critical reading and writing skills to analyze the material? A demonstrated depth of critical analysis will be key for achieving high marks.

REFERENCING

The Law Department recommends that you follow the Legal Style set out here:
<https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/uniform-legal-citation-style-mcgill-guide>

However, if you prefer another referencing style you may use it provided that you are consistent throughout and the style is academically recognized (e.g. Harvard, MLA, Chicago). If you are unsure about the proper format of a particular referencing style, please consult a referencing style guide from the library.

The Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Services provide students and faculty assistance with the teaching and learning of academic writing. Please contact them in advance and make use of their services:
<https://carleton.ca/csas/support/>

Tips for avoiding plagiarism (see also page 11 below):

- Give yourself enough time to work on your assignment, so you are not tempted to copy text from other sources.
- Take notes carefully so that you include specific sources and page numbers. Be sure to clearly identify which ideas are your own and which come from your sources.
- Reference as you write, rather than leaving all the referencing to the end. Even if you just use shorthand as you write (i.e. note the author's last name and page number), you can then go back and do the formatting later. But it is always better to reference as you go – it will save you time in the long run and you are less likely to forget something.
- Consult a referencing guide! If you are unsure about referencing format or procedure, check a referencing style guide.

For more help see: <https://library.carleton.ca/guides/subject/law>

Remember: Using another person's work without acknowledgment, or using work in a way that may mislead or deceive your reader is plagiarism. It does not matter whether you deliberately intended to deceive or not – it remains subject to the university's policies and penalties on academic misconduct. Plagiarism undermines the integrity of academic scholarship and is not acceptable.

***ALL INSTANCES OF PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED
DIRECTLY TO THE DEAN.***

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend every class. Participation grades go beyond mere attendance. They are based on the level of preparation a student regularly completes for class, their ability to share their considered and considerate work with their peers, their collegiality and professional demeanour in class (including making space for others to participate), and their ability to critically engage with the content of the course.

AI POLICY

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly baked into our daily lives – our phones, computers, apps, and service providers. There is no way to fully escape it. But please remember that its presence is not mystical, nor inevitable. It is the result of billions of dollars of investment into private corporations that are compelled to make a profit (OECD, 2026).¹ It will not *naturally* get better, but may improve with more and more investment dedicated to its enhancements. And while it may provide some use for sorting large data sets or helping with menial tasks, its ubiquity comes at a cost to ourselves, society, and the environment.

What to do then with this ever-present technology in the university classroom? If you would like to maintain good mental health and brain power, AI should not replace reading, critical thinking, difficult problem solving, or judgment. Use your brain first. Then, perhaps, you can use a chatbot to support (i.e., as a tutor to check your own work, for example) the dedicated time you are putting in to weekly reading, note-taking, and assignment preparation. Students that replace homework and studying time with AI answers, without engaging their own brain, show brief, short term grade enhancement, but long term grade decline (Economist, 2026), because they have not actually learned the material.² However, it is also possible to succeed in this class (and the world) by not using AI. In fact, if the reported environmental costs of using AI are to be relied upon, it may be incumbent upon us to dispense with it as soon as possible (UN News, 2026).³

For this course, I expect all submitted material to be composed by you, the individual student enrolled. I welcome human-made errors, misunderstandings, incomprehension, writing that needs improvement, and nuanced and detailed arguments that require refining. Making mistakes is one of the best ways to learn. Therefore, please do not cheat yourself out of the learning experience by using AI-enhanced corporate tools offered by ChatGPT, Grammarly, Adobe, and others. Their inclination to the “norm” will quash the human out of your work, producing easily digestible (a.k.a. boring) tracts fit for the dustbin of history, and you will have learned nothing along the way. Take a page from L. Frank Baum and remember that the wish we seek to be granted – whether it is a brain, heart, courage, or the best grade, the perfect job, the dream life – is but an illusion. As with all things in life, the journey – albeit difficult, scary, and without guarantee – is the destination.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) “AI firms capture 61% of global venture capital in 2025”, 17 February 2026: <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/announcements/2026/02/ai-firms-capture-61-percent-of-global-venture-capital-in-2025.html>

² Economist, “Does AI stop children from learning?”, 18 August 2026: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2026/08/18/does-ai-stop-children-from-learning>

³ United Nations News, “AI’s environmental costs threaten water, land and climate”, 4 June 2026: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167658>

LAWS 4302A Course Overview		
Date	Week	Lecture
11 September	One	Introduction
Historical Context, or the Long Durée of Corporate Crime		
18 September	Two*	Law of Partnerships & Corporations
25 September	Three	Marx & the Hidden Abode of Production
2 October	Four*	The Fusion of the Political & Economic
Contemporary Context		
9 October	Five	Focus on Canada
16 October	Six	Law's Possibilities
23 October	Seven	Midterm Exam
30 October	-----	READING BREAK
Case Studies		
6 November	Eight	Case Study: Amazon I
13 November	Nine	Case Study: Amazon II
20 November	Ten*	Case Study: Suing Corporations I
27 November	Eleven	Case Study: Suing Corporations II
4 December	Twelve*	Deceptive Marketing Presentations

*Indicates a week that a quiz will take place in seminar.

SCHEDULE**Week 1: Introduction (11 September)**

Welcome to the class! An overview of what we will cover and a chance to meet one another. A showing of Joel Bakan's *The New Corporation* (2023).

Week 2: The Law of Partnerships and Corporations (18 September)Assigned Reading:

1. VanDuzer, J. Anthony, "Chapter Three: Introduction to Corporate Law," In: *The Law of Partnerships and Corporations*. Fifth edition. Toronto: Irwin Law, an imprint of University of Toronto Press, 2026: 96-120. (24 pages)
2. *Gowling WLG* (Frank Sur), "Business Structures in Canada," October 2024: <https://gowlingwlg.com/en-ca/insights-resources/guides/2023/doing-business-in-canada-business-structures>.
3. Heinrich, Michael. "The Object of Critique in the Critique of Political Economy". In: *An Introduction to the Three Volumes of Karl Marx's Capital*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2012, 29-38. (10 pages)

Week 3: Marx & the Hidden Abode of Production (25 September)Assigned Reading:

1. Marx, Karl. *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Vol. 1. Translated by Ben Fowkes. Introduction by Ernest Mandel. London: Penguin Books, 1990. (excerpts, approx. 70 pages)
 - Chapter One: The Commodity: 125-137; 162-177 (27 pages)
 - Chapter Four: The General Formula for Capital: 247-257 (10 pages)
 - Chapter Ten: The Working Day: 340-344; 375-383 (12 pages)
 - Chapter Twelve: The Concept of Relative Surplus Value: 429-433 (4 pages)
 - Chapter Twenty Six: So Called Primitive Accumulation: 873-876 (4 pages)
 - Chapter Twenty Seven: The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land: 877-895 (18 pages)

Week 4: The Fusion of the Political and the Economic (2 October)Assigned Reading:

1. Wood, Ellen Meiksins. Chapter One: The Separation of the 'Economic' and the 'Political' in Capitalism. In: *Democracy Against Capitalism: Renewing Historical Materialism*. London: Verso, 2016, 19-48. (29 pages)
2. Barkan, Joshua. "The Sovereign Gift". In: *Corporate Sovereignty: Law and Government under Capitalism*. 1st ed. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. (22 pages)

Week 5: Back to Canada (9 October)Assigned Reading:

1. Brownlee, Jamie. "Corporations and Corporate Power." In *Canadian Political Economy*, edited by Heather Whiteside, 173–92. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020. (19 pages)
2. Cairns, Robert D.; Chandler, Marsha A.; and Moull, William D.. "The Resource Amendment (Section 92A) and the Political Economy of Canadian Federalism." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 23.2 (1985) : 253-274. (24 pages)

Week 6: Law's Possibilities (16 October)Assigned Reading:

1. Pistor, Katharina. "Capital Rules By Law". *The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality*. 1st ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020: 205-234. (29 pages)
2. Bakan, Joel. "The Corporate Liberation Movement". *The New Corporation : How "Good" Corporations Are Bad for Democracy*. New York: Vintage Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, 2020: 59-90. (31 pages)

Week 7: MIDTERM (23 October)

Come to seminar prepared to write a mid-term exam, composed of multiple-choice, true and false, and short answer, as well as essay questions on the content covered so far.

HAPPY READING WEEK!

Week 8: Case Study: Amazon (I) (6 November)Assigned Reading:

1. Khan, Lina M. "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox." *The Yale Law Journal*, 126, no. 3 (January 2017): 710–805. (96 pages)
2. Federal Trade Commission (USA), "FTC Secures Historic 2.5 Billion Settlement Against Amazon," September 2025: <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/09/ftc-secures-historic-25-billion-settlement-against-amazon>

Week 9: Case Study: Amazon (II) (13 November)Assigned Reading:

1. Maher, Stephen, and Scott Aquanno. "Monopoly or Competition? Unraveling the Amazon Paradox." *The Review of Radical Political Economics*, March 5, 2026. (25 pages)

Week 10: Case Study: Suing Corporations (I) (20 November)Assigned Reading:

1. *Nevsun Resources Ltd. v. Araya*, 2020 SCC 5, [2020] 1 S.C.R. 166 (approx. 75 pages)

Week 11: Case Study: Suing Corporations (II) (27 November)Assigned Reading:

1. Ellis, Jaye. "Transnational Corporate Liability Through the Lens of Interlegality." *Dalhousie Law Journal*, 48, no. 2 (July 2025): 1–34. (34 pages)
2. Ganguly, Geetanjali et al., 'If at First You Don't Succeed: Suing Corporations for Climate Change' (2018) 38 Oxford Journal of Legal Studies 841. (28 pages)

Week 12: Deceptive Marketing Presentations (4 December)

Students will present their group research on a case of "Deceptive Marketing", along with analysis. This assignment will be introduced in seminar eight (6 November). All work will be conducted during seminar. This research and culminating presentation will not be marked, but will count towards students' participation mark.

University and Departmental Policies

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/>.

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.

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/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/>

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, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

Pregnancy Obligation 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](#).

Unauthorized Student Recording

Unauthorized student recording of classroom or other academic activities (including advising sessions or office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact the **Paul Menton Centre**. Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the **University's Copyright Policy**, faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as lectures slides, lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials or otherwise circulate these materials without the instructor's written permission. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.