

COURSE:	LAWS 3804A – Law of the Family	
TERM:	Winter 2018	
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2201, LAWS 2202	
CLASS:	Day & Time:	Mondays 6:05pm – 8:55pm
	Room:	Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Megan Gaucher	
CONTACT:	Office: Loeb D496 Office Hrs: Mondays 3:00pm – 5:00pm Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 4207 Email: Megan.Gaucher@carleton.ca	

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: 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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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. 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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism 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, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence.

More information on the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** can be found at:

<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Student Services: The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at carleton.ca/csas

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.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Challenging the idea that the family exists outside the public realm and is therefore exempt from state intrusion, this course will examine the forces that organize and regulate our intimate lives. Questions we will be exploring include: What interest does the state have in regulating the family? How do we come to understand familial life as private? What identities are preferred in laws that regulate the family and familial life? What happens to our understanding of family when its boundaries are tested by new family functions and formations? This course will examine the ways in which the politics of the family impacts all aspects of life ranging from the political – to the economic – to the social – to the legal. While the focus will be predominantly on Canadian law and legislation, it will also involve non-Canadian literature in order to get a sense of conversations elsewhere and to understand where Canada fits in an international context.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All articles, cases and other materials can be found either on cuLearn, as an eBook at the library or online (see below for details).

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.

Type of Assignment	Weighting	Due Date
Participation • In-Class Attendance	10%	N/A

• Online Participation		
Critical Commentaries (3)	20%	Chosen Weeks
Research Paper Proposal	15%	February 12th
Research Paper	25%	March 26th
Take-Home Exam	30%	April 19th

Participation (10%)

I encourage my students to take ownership of their learning and one way to accomplish this is through effective participation. This means attending as many classes as possible, staying on top of assigned readings, and giving some thought to the readings and themes of the course in relation to your everyday lives.

In this course, students can earn participation marks in two ways: attending class regularly (maximum 5 marks) and contributing to online discussion forums (maximum 5 marks).

In the right-hand column of the “Course Schedule” are discussion questions meant to stimulate your thinking about the materials, course themes, and current developments. Students can post a response to these questions on the CuLearn class discussion forum for a mark. In addition to responding to these questions, you are encouraged to post your own questions, discussions, and reflections as well. Online participation will be awarded marks when the content is reflective of course content, respective, and aims to generate discussion among your peers. Online posts in reference to the syllabus questions must be posted at some point during the relevant week (e.g. Monday – Sunday).

Critical Commentaries (20%)

You are required to write/submit a minimum of **three** critical commentaries on course materials marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus. Commentaries are due in-class on the week that the article is assigned. Commentaries should be no longer than 300 words and should identify/include the following:

- Central claims/arguments (e.g. What is the author(s) arguing?)
- Central debates (e.g. How does the author(s) back up their claims? What are the implications of the author's claims for our understanding of family? How does the article speak to/disrupt concepts, themes, etc. discussed in class?)
- Strengths/limitations of the readings
- One discussion question

Commentaries are due at the start of class for which the reading is assigned. **No exceptions.** If you are unable to submit a commentary on a particular week, choose a different week. You can submit as many commentaries you like (there are eight opportunities in total) and your best **three** commentaries will be counted.

Research Paper Proposal (15%)

You are required to submit a 2-3 page (single spaced) paper proposal for your upcoming research paper outlining your research question, thesis statement, and primary arguments. In addition to the proposal, you must also provide an annotated bibliography highlighting ten academic sources with proper reference information as well as a brief summary of how each source relates to your chosen

topic. Further information will be posted on cuLearn. This assignment is due in-class on **February 12th**.

Research Paper (25%)

You are required to submit an 8-10 page paper (double spaced) on a topic of your choosing within the realm of the course. Further information will be posted on cuLearn. This assignment is due in-class on **March 26th**.

Take-Home Exam (30%)

The final exam will cover all of the course material, including lecture material, films, and readings, cumulatively from the start of the semester. More information on this exam will be provided in class closer to the end of the semester.

SCHEDULE

Please see the “LAWS 3804A – Course Schedule” on cuLearn.