

**COURSE:** **LAWS 4601 B – Transnational Law and Human Rights**

**TERM:**  
**Winter 2025**

**PREREQUISITES:** **LAWS 2908 or PAPM 3000, LAWS 2601 and fourth-year Honours standing.**

**CLASS:** **Day & Time:** **Mondays 14:30 to 17:25**  
**Room:** **The course is delivered via Zoom**

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Gilles LeVasseur**  
**(CONTRACT)**

**CONTACT:** **Office:** **B442 Loeb Building (Contract Instructor's Office)**  
**Office Hrs:** **Thursday night 21h05 to 22h00**  
**Telephone:** **TBA**

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## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course explores the role of law in addressing human rights issues that transcend traditional categories of domestic and international law. It examines the potential and limits of legal approaches to human rights challenges and the growth of transnational approaches to law and human rights. Emphasis is placed on the interplay between legal frameworks and human rights advocacy across multiple scales and jurisdictions.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course also examines the transitional dimensions of human rights through a focus on human rights and natural resource exploitation. Initiatives to tackle the mining-human rights nexus span transnational, global, international, and local scales, utilizing diverse regulatory types, including state laws, international laws, norms, rules, best practices, guiding principles, and frameworks. The course will explore the human rights abuses and related challenges while critically analyzing the operations of power and their legal regulations.

## REQUIRED TEXT

The course outline contains a selection of books and readings concerning Transnational Law and Human Rights which are available at the MacOdrum Library. Although not required reading, students may find these books and readings of use in preparing research papers and in researching topics of particular interest.

## Web Site

Course announcements, grades, and other materials will be posted on the course web site on Brightspace. To logon, go to <https://Brightspace.carleton.ca>. Only students registered in the course

have access to the site; your Username and Password to sign on are the same as those for your email or Connect account.

Please allow up to 3 business days for the professor to respond to email messages.

## **EVALUATION**

1. Video Presentation	25%
2. Term Paper	35%
3. Final Exam	40%

The April exam will be held during the formal examination period (April 2025); the exact date, time and location will be announced by the Scheduling Office during the term.

**The video presentation must be submitted with the dates of the schedule of presentations.**

**Detailed instructions for the first assignment can be found on Brightspace under "First Assignment".**

**The term Paper must be submitted by March 24, prior to the beginning of class. Details and instructions for the assignment can be found on Brightspace under "Second Assignment".**

## **LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS**

The penalty for a late assignment is zero if past the due date.

## **SYLLABUS**

The course syllabus will generally follow the topics as presented in the "Table of Contents" in the text. We've created a weekly reading schedule for *Transnational Corporations and Human Rights* by Gwynne L. Skinner, starting January 13, 2025, with a study break during the week of February 17.

The general topics and the order in which they are presented are as follows (subject to some variations as required by time constraints):

<b>Week</b>	<b>Course content</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 1 (January 6)	Introduction	
Week 2 (January 13)	Introduction to transnational corporations and Human Rights	Chapters 1 & 2
Week 3 (January 20)	Legal Obligations for Canadian Transnational Corporations	Chapter 3
Week 4 (January 27)	Human Rights and Labor Practices	Chapter 4
Week 5 (February 3)	Environmental impacts of TNCs	Chapter 5
Week 6 (February 10)	Indigenous and Community Rights	Chapter 6

Week 7 (February 24)	Corporate Social Responsibility	Chapter 7
Week 8 (March 3)	International Human Rights Framework	Chapter 8
Week 9 (March 10)	Case Studies of Canadian TNCs	Chapter 9
Week 10 (March 17)	Challenges in Corporate Accountability	Chapter 10
Week 11 (March 24)	Emerging Trends in Corporate responsibility	Chapter 11
Week 12 (March 31) - Review		

## TEXTBOOK

The textbook that students can order for the course is:

*Transnational Corporations and Human Rights* by Gwynne L. Skinner, Robert McCorquodale, and Olivier De Schutter (2019).

This book provides an in-depth analysis of the relationship between transnational corporations and human rights, including legal obligations, corporate social responsibility, and case studies highlighting global challenges and solutions.

Final exam deferrals must be applied for at the Registrar's Office. Please view the following link for more information and how to apply for a deferral: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor, who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for short-term extensions, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>.

For more information regarding academic consideration for short-term incapacitation (illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control), please visit the following link: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#academic-consideration-for-short-term-incapacitation>

## University and Departmental Policies

### DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

**a. Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit.**

- *Students are prohibited from re-using their own work from a different course/assignment.*

**b. Permissibility of the use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT).**

- *Any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.*

## **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://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/>
- 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 (<https://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 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](mailto: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](#).

### **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/>