



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Sociology and Legal Studies
LS 101 (Section 001)
Introduction to Legal Studies
Fall 2018
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:30, SJ2 1004

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Description

For most of us, “the Law” is a list of concrete rules hidden away in the drawers of police stations and lawyers’ offices that we don’t give a second thought to until someone steals our iPod or we are pulled over for speeding. In fact, Law surrounds and affects virtually every dimension of our daily lives, playing a fundamental role in ordering our society, influencing the way in which we see the world, and shaping our interactions with one another. This course seeks to make us more aware of our direct and indirect encounters with the law by taking a closer look at the complex and shifting relationship between law and society.

Employing an interdisciplinary approach that draws on multiple disciplines including politics, philosophy, history, religion, and economics, Introduction to Legal Studies seeks to introduce both the foundational principles and some of the dominant controversies and debates surrounding the law. By the end of the course, we will have an understanding of what the law is, where it comes from, how society shapes the law and, in turn, how the law shapes us.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

This course was designed with three learning objectives in mind. First, we will learn about different theoretical approaches to the law and how they have shaped our understanding of the law today. Second, we will gain a basic understanding of how law is made and administered in Canada. Third, we will develop a familiarity with some of the major topics in legal studies as a starting-point for thinking

critically about the relationship between law and society.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a basic understanding of the role of law in society and will be better placed to determine the course of their future studies. In particular, students will have had the opportunity to develop their legal literacy and their critical thinking skills.

Required Text

The following text and reserve items are the required materials for the course. Make sure to have these materials on hand. No substitutions or exception are permitted.

Bookstore: Steven Vago & Adie Nelson (2018), Law and Society (5th Canadian Edition), (New York: Routledge).

LEARN/Reserves: Additional compulsory readings can be accessed through the Library Course Reserves or through LEARN (see below)

From time to time, as relevant, additional short readings (in particular articles from the media) may be posted as required readings.

Waterloo LEARN

LS 101 Section 001 has an online course page that is accessible via learn.uwaterloo.ca. Students should visit this page for the latest course announcements, assignment instructions, course policies, and links to readings not found in the textbook. Students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to all information distributed through the Waterloo LEARN Course Page. Information provided on this page will be considered to have been provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting. **Please check regularly.** This should be your first stop prior to emailing either the TAs or the Professor.

Communication

Please use Email sensibly. There are 200 students in the course. Please attempt to answer your own question by looking at the syllabus or asking a classmate before contacting the teaching assistant assigned to your group or the Professor. When emailing, type the course number in the subject heading, include your First and Last Name, and use a salutation and closing to open and close all Emails. Because of the size of this class, please be patient. We will make our best efforts to respond to all emails within two business days. If you have not heard back from us, please re-send your email. Emails coming from non UW addresses are sometimes identified as spam so please use your UW Email address. Do not expect a reply on weekends. In addition, please do not email us asking for information that can be found in the course outline or on the Waterloo LEARN course page. If you have missed classes, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a fellow student.

Unless it is an urgent requirement (informing the instructor of sudden illness, etc.) we will **not** respond to emails regarding the exam or assignment within 24 hours of the exam/assignment date. Please do not leave your questions or assignments to the last minute!

Remember, the Professor has a minimum of two office hours each week and appointments can be made

at other times if necessary. Please take advantage of these!

Course Requirements and Assessment

Requirement	Description	Value	Date
Mid-term exam	Long and short answer questions.	25	October 4 (in-class)
Essay assignment	Details to be provided on LEARN	30	Due November 5 at 11:59PM
Final exam	Long and short answer questions The final examination will cover the entire term.	45%	During the exam period in December

Submission of Assignments

All assignments must be submitted online via the appropriate LEARN Dropbox by the time and date noted above.

Late Work

All assignments submitted after stated deadlines will be marked as late. This includes assignments submitted through LEARN Dropboxes which automatically time-stamps late uploads. Late assignments will be considered to have been received on the date registered by the LEARN Dropbox. Late hard copy submissions should be submitted in person to the professor at the following class.

Any assignment submitted after the date and time that it is due will be subjected to a 5% per day late penalty. For example, if a paper is assessed at 85%, it will fall to 80% if late by one day, 75% for two days, and so on. Please note that if an assignment is due at midnight on November 5th and is submitted at 1 am on November 6th instead, it will still be considered to be a day late. Please note that **assignments will NOT be accepted if they are more than five (5) days late.**

For all assignments and exams, accommodations will only be considered if:

- (a) you are ill and submit a University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form to the professor within 48 hours;
- (b) there was a death of a family member, which you can prove through official documentation (travel receipts will not suffice) submitted to the professor;
- (c) due dates conflict with important dates on your religious calendar, and you have informed the professor of this fact within two weeks of learning about this conflict;
- (d) you are registered with [AccessAbility Services](#) and can provide the professor with the relevant documentation;
- (e) you inform the professor within two weeks of learning that you have an exam conflict, meaning a scheduled LS 101 exam is at the same time as, or is within two hours of another scheduled exam.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Waterloo's policies on what your responsibilities are in the event of a late or missed course requirement: <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/academic-regulations-related-assignments-tests-and-final-1>

Keep in mind the following regulations:

Students in on-campus courses who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor(s) within 48 hours by submitting a completed *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form* to support requests for accommodation due to illness.

The *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form* is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available on line at <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>. Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion; doctors' notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable.

Grade Re-Appraisals

The professor will re-evaluate individual assignments and/or exams upon request only if:

- a) the student making the request first consulted the member of the Teaching Team who originally graded the work, and no mutually agreeable solutions was achieved;
- b) the student understands that the professor's re-appraisal is no guarantee of a higher grade, but in fact could result in a lower grade on the exam/assignment; and,
- c) it is under 21 days since the exam was written or the assignment was submitted.

Electronic Device Policy

In the spirit of creating a classroom conducive to listening and learning, I would ask all students to restrict their laptop use during lectures to note-taking and to silence their smartphones and forgo texting. In a shared learning environment, Surfing (MSN, Facebook, etc.), texting, tweeting, and other such endeavors are distracting to other students. Research has shown that inappropriate compute usage not only affects your own grade, but impacts those around you even more. Your respectful consideration of others is very much appreciated. Your rights end where the rights of others begin. Students found to be inappropriately using any kind of media during class time will be asked to leave immediately.

Attendance Policy

Welcome to university! There is no attendance taken for this course. Naturally, your ability to do well will be heavily influenced by class attendance and preparation for the lectures. It will be easy to choose to hang out with your friends or take a nap instead of coming to class but come anyway. You (or your parents) paid a lot of money and worked hard for this opportunity. Make the most of it.

Course Outline / Class Schedule

(Readings subject to change)

WEEK/TOPIC	DATE	READINGS
Week 1 Overview/Introduction	1B: September 6	In class cellphone and laptop use lowers exams scores
UNIT I: BASICS OF THE CANADIAN LEGAL SYSTEM		
Week 2 What is the law? Lawmaking and Sources of Law	2A: September 11 2B: September 13	Vago & Nelson : ◦ Chapter 1, pp. 3-22; ◦ Chapter 4, pp.110-123
Week 3 The Law, State and Constitution	3A: September 18 3B: September 20	LEARN: ◦ Excerpts from the Constitution Acts; ◦ Beverly McLachlin, "Respecting Democratic Roles" (2005) 14 Constitutional Forum 15
Week 4 Canadian Legal Institutions/Judicial System	4A: September 25 4B: September 27	Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 3, pp. 59-73, 88-96, 100-104
Week 5 Review and Midterm	5A: October 2 – Review 5B: October 4 – Midterm	STUDY!!!!
UNIT II: THEORETICAL APPROCHES TO LAW		
Week 6 TBA	6B: October 11	LEARN: ◦ Martin Luther King Jr. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 2, pp. 27-33, 36-37 (Marx), 40-41 (Dicey and Holmes)
Week 7 Intro to Theoretical approaches to the law; Natural Law and Legal Positivism	7A: October 16 7B: October 18	LEARN: ◦ Raymond Wacks, excerpt from <i>Understanding Jurisprudence</i> (pp. 14-22) ◦ Raymond Wacks, <i>Philosophy of Law: A Very Short Introduction</i>

		(Oxford University Press, 2006) pp. 18-37
Week 8 Natural Law and Legal Positivism cont'd	8A: October 23 8B: October 25	LEARN: ◦ Lon Fuller, excerpt from <i>The Morality of Law</i> (pp. 33-41) ◦ Lon Fuller, "The Problem of the Grudge Informer"
Week 9 Socio-legal Theories and Critical Perspectives	9A: October 30 9B: November 1	Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 2, pp. 49-54 LEARN: ◦ Margaret Thornton, "Feminist Legal Theory: An Introduction", pp. 5-9 (T) ◦ Richard Delgado & Jean Stefancic, <i>Critical Race Theory: An Introduction</i> , pp. 1-11 (Th)
UNIT III: FUNCTIONS OF THE LAW		
Writing Assignment – Due November 5 by 11:59 PM		
Week 10 Intro to Functions of the Law; Law and Dispute Resolution	10A: November 6 10B: November 8	Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 6, pp. 181-206
Week 11 Law and Social Control	11A: November 13 11B: November 15	Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 5, pp.139-177
Week 12 Law and Social Change	12A: November 20 12B: November 22	Vago & Nelson: ◦ Chapter 7, pp. 217-246
Week 13 Questions of Justice; Final exam review	13A: November 27 13B: November 29 - Review	Reading TBA STUDY!!!!

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more

information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.
