



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Sociology and Legal Studies

LS 101 – 001 Winter Term 2022

Introduction to Legal Studies

M, W, SJ2 1004

INSTRUCTOR AND TA INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Leroux-Demir
Office: SH 2004
Phone: 519-884-8110 X
Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: clleroux@uwaterloo.ca

TAs: Ali Mostolizadeh
Email: ali.mostolizadeh@uwaterloo.ca
Office: Virtual Office Hours in Virtual Classroom
Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the study of law, its structure, and legal institutions from a cross cultural and historical perspective. This interdisciplinary course examines the origins of the legal system in Canada and their impact on society. Included is an analysis of the diverse social, historical, political, economical, moral, and cultural conditions under which the law arises and functions within society. The objectives of this course are four-fold:

- To familiarize students with the foundation and sources of law
- To develop a basic understanding of the structure and function of legal institutions
- To explore the processes of law-making and overview the various legal actors
- To encourage students to think critically about the role of law and its impacts on different segments of society in conjunction with the application of traditional and contemporary theoretical perspectives

Through a combination of lectures, class discussion and assignments, the goal of the course is to consider the ways in which the law modifies and is modified to uphold particular societal interests. In addition, students will be encouraged to critically assess the manner in which the

law is constituted as a legitimate method to invoke social change.

COVID-19 Remote Teaching Contingency Plan

In the case of transitioning to remote learning throughout the term, this course has a fully functioning, asynchronous online section that will be used in lieu of in-person lectures. Everything you will require to stay on track with the course lectures and assignments are available through the Learn course shell, including pre-recorded lectures, online midterms, and all other relevant resources you require to complete activities and assignments.

Communication and Email Etiquette

You are welcome to make an appointment to discuss assignments etc.

Please be considerate and polite in your emails to the course instructor. You must include your full name and student ID number when submitting email correspondence. All email correspondence should have the course number (LS 101- 002) in the subject heading. Please keep your messages brief. Do not ask for information that can be found on the course outline. Do not ask for your grades by email. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow student. Emails will be answered within 24-48 hours, except on weekends unless it is an emergency.

Required Texts (Available for purchase through the UW Bookstore)

Vago, Steven & Nelson, Adie (2017). *Law and Society*. Toronto: Pearson Education Inc. 5th Canadian ed.

(Older editions are acceptable)

Waterloo LEARN

The LS 101 (001) course is hosted through UW LEARN and is accessible via learn.uwaterloo.ca. Please visit the course page daily to receive the latest announcements, assignment instructions, email policies, and links to updated course materials. If there is an emergency cancellation for the course, the cancellation information will be posted here. All assignment instructions are listed under **Activities and Assignments** in learn.

Course Requirements

Mid-Term 1 via Learn Quizzes (25%) **Available online Wednesday Feb 2nd, 2022 at 8 am ET - Due Wednesday Feb 2nd, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET**

Mid-Term 2 via Learn Quizzes (20%) **Available online Wednesday March 9th, 2022 at 8 am ET - Due Wednesday March 9th, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET**

5 Critical Response Papers (25 %) See Learn Course Schedule for dates, times, and submission guidelines

Final Take Home Assessment (30%) **Due April 12th, 2022 at 4 PM ET** in the course [Dropbox](#). **Final released on April 9th at 8AM ET.** Worth 30% of final grade.

Each midterm includes a combination of true/false multiple-choice questions. The final take home assessment will cover the latter part of the course and consist of a selection of short answer and essay style questions.

Class Schedule (Tentative) and Readings – Refer to Learn Course Schedule for Details and Links to Articles / Resources Required for Completing the CRPs.

Week 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Week 2- Introduction to Law and Legal Studies

Chapter 1: Introduction pp. 10-11 and 15-18

Chapter 2: Theoretical Perspectives pp. 26-30

Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 97-110

Chapter 4: Lawmaking pp. 114-116

Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 169-172

Chapter 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 174-184

Civil or Criminal? - The Advantages and Disadvantages of Civil Trial Proceedings in CRP # 1

Sexual Misconduct Case Activity – Soulpepper Theatre Company

Week 3- The Legal Profession: Actors and Functions

Chapter 8: The Legal Profession pp. 239-243, pp. 258-266, pp. 272-275

Week 4- Legal Ethics: The Ken Murray Case

No assigned readings

CRP # 3 – Ken Murray Obstruction of Justice Activity

Week 5 Theories of Social Order

Chapter 1: Introduction pp. 18-20
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 95-97
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 134-139
Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 229-231
Midterm 1

Week 6: Due Process and Crime Control Models of the Criminal Process
No assigned readings
CRP # 3 – Police Interrogation Methods: The Joshua Frank Case

Week 7: Canada's Legal History, the Court System and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 57-67
Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 210-229
CRP # 4 - TedXTalk Critical Reflection "What Rights and Freedoms?"

Week 8: Reading Week

Week 9: Civil Litigation and Tort Law
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 80-88
Chapter 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 195-200

Week 10: Contracts and Contract Law – Principles Underlying Civil Law
No assigned readings

Week 11: Principles of the Criminal Law
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 138-142
CRP # 5 - Dan and Ladue Case Studies: Establishing *Actus Reus* and Requisite Intent Activity

Week 12: Mental Disorder and the Law
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 145-147
See The Mental Health Act of Ontario under [The Government of Ontario's e-Laws \(hyperlink\)](#).
This is not a required reading but here for interest sake.

Week 13: The Legislation of Morality – Drug Legislation and Social Policy
Chapter 4: Lawmaking pp. 109-111
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 147-154

POLICY ON LATE WORK, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, AND MAKE-UP TESTS

A penalty of 5% per day will be applied to late assignments that do not have accompanying VIF or supporting documentation. Make up tests will only be permitted with a VIF or supporting documentation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Students can contact me via email (ccleroux@uwaterloo.ca). In the subject heading please include course code and term.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

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](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information. 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 instructor, 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 offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

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: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software ([Turnitin®](#)) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.