



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology and Legal Studies

LS 101 (Section 001)

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES

Fall 2019

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12: 50 pm in SJ2 1004

Instructor: Carlie L. Leroux-Demir, PhD.

Office: Sweeney Hall 2112

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm or by appointment

Primary Contact Info – Via Email: [clleroux@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:clleroux@uwaterloo.ca)

## Course Description and Objectives

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, economic, 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; and,
- 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.

## Communication and Email Etiquette

You are welcome to speak to me after class, drop by my office during office hours, or make an appointment to discuss assignments etc.

**Please be considerate and polite in your emails.** You must include your full name and student ID number when submitting email correspondence. All email correspondence should have the course number (LS 101- 001) 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. I do not**

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**provide copies of my lectures or post lectures on LEARN.** Emails will be answered within 24-48 hours, except on weekends. Exceptions are for emergency situations.

**Required Texts (Available for purchase through the UW Bookstore and or on E-reserve through the library)**

Vago, Steven & Nelson, Adie. (2018). *Law and Society*. Toronto: Rutledge Inc. 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian ed.

(Older editions are acceptable)

**Waterloo LEARN**

The LS 101 (001) course 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 there.**

**Course Requirements**

- Mid-Term 1 (30%) Date - Wednesday October 9th, 2019
- Mid-Term 2 (30%) Date - Wednesday November 13th, 2019
- 10 Weekly Critical Response Papers (CRPs) (worth a total of 10%) Due each Monday (**in class – hard copy only, no exceptions to this rule**)
- Final Exam (30%) TBA (**non-cumulative**)

The weekly critical response paper is a one page, single-spaced (handwritten or typed) document that requires you to answer the question (s) posed at the end of Wednesday's class. This necessitates critical reflection on the topic we are covering and reference to theories and concepts we have broached throughout the lecture. You will be given 20 minutes to begin your composition and the weekend to finalize a response. Your answer must include reference to the textbook reading for that particular week/module. **Please indicate the textbook page number in your write-up by highlighting it.** There should be a minimum of two references to the course textbook *per* CRP.

As for testing, each mid-term includes a mixture of 30 true/false, multiple-choice questions. The final exam will cover the final topics in the course and consist of a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and two additional sections: short answer questions and essay question.

**Class Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1 & 2 – Welcome and Introductions!**

Introduction to Law and Legal Studies

Chapter 1: Introduction bottom of pp. 9-13 and 17-22

Chapter 2: Theoretical Perspectives pp. 29-32 and 45-56

Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 100-108

Chapter 4: Lawmaking pp. 118-120  
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 174-178  
Chapter 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 182-192

**Civil or Criminal? - The Advantages and Disadvantages of Civil Trial Proceedings in Sexual Misconduct Cases Activity**

**Week 3 & 4- Legal Ethics and Legal Profession**  
Chapter 8: The Legal Profession pp. 249-254, pp. 270-280, pp. 285-289  
**Ken Murray Case: Obstruction of Justice Activity**

**Week 5- Theories of Social Order**  
Chapter 1: Introduction pp. 20-22  
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 97-100  
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 139-144  
Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 238-240  
**Editorial Analysis - Answer question #3 on page 246 of textbook**

**Week 6: Due Process and Crime Control Models of the Criminal Process (No readings)**  
**News Article “RCMPs Denial of Bathroom Breaks” - Police Interrogation Methods and Models of Crime Control Activity**

**Week 7: Canada’s Legal History, the Court System and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms**  
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 62-75  
Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 221-245  
**Activity - TedXTalk Critical Reflection “What Rights and Freedoms?”**

**Week 8: Civil Litigation and Tort Law**  
Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 85-87

**Week 9: Contracts and Contract Law – Principles Underlying Civil Law (No readings)**  
**Activity (TBA)**

**Week 10: Principles of the Criminal Law**  
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 144-147  
**Dan and Ladue Case Studies: Establishing Actus Reus and Requisite Intent Activity**  
**Pierce Fisheries Ltd. Case Study Activity**

**Week 11: Mental Disorder and the Law**  
Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 150-152  
**Activity (TBA)**

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 12: Family Law and Social Policy**  
Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 217-231

The Legislation of Morality – Drug Legislation and Social Policy

Chapter 4: Lawmaking pp. 111-115

Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 152-160

**Activity (TBA)**

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Please read the following very carefully!**

**Late Work**

CRPs are the only written requirement for this course due to the size of the student body. Students are not allowed to hand this assignment in late unless the instructor has granted an extension. Students who miss a CRP are permitted a make-up, if and only if, they have a VIF to support their absence.

**Electronic Device Policy**

Laptops are acceptable and tablets with keyboards. Cell phones must be kept stored away. Pictures are not permitted (i.e., pics of ppt. slides are not allowed in any circumstances). Recording of lecture material is prohibited unless granted permission from the instructor in cases where a student is registered with UW Accessibility Services.

**Attendance Policy**

There is no official attendance policy for this course, however, CRPs are due in-class in hardcopy every Monday. Therefore, it is up to the student to attend class and submit the CRP, if they would like to receive the grade.

**Missed Examinations and Tests – Travel**

Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an accommodation.

**Missed Examinations and Tests – Illness**

If you are unable to write a mid-term or final examination due to illness, seek medical treatment and have a medical practitioner complete a **Verification of Illness Form**. Email the instructor within 48 hours. Make sure you include your name, student ID number, and the exam(s) missed. You will be **REQUIRED** to hand in the original completed form before you write the make-up examination.

Further information about Examination Accommodation Due to Illness regulations is available in the Undergraduate Calendar. <http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Acad-Regs-Accommodations>

**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.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>  
 “Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to policy #70, Student Grievance,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/policy70.html>.”

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

### **Avoidance of Academic Offences**

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

**Special Needs Students:** Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact the Office for Students With Disabilities, Needles Hall for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

