

**St. Jerome's University**  
**Department of Sociology and Legal Studies**  
**LS 101 – 002**  
**ONLINE**  
**Fall Term 2021**

Instructor: Dr. Carlie L. Leroux-Demir, PhD  
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### **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, 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.

### **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. 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian ed.

(Older editions are acceptable)

## **Waterloo LEARN**

The LS 101 (002) 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 (25%) Date Week 5 October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Mid-Term 2 (20%) Date Week 9 November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

5 Critical Response (25) See Course Schedule for Dates (see course shell for guidelines)

Final Take Home Assessment (30%) December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4pm ET

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 short answer and essay style questions.

## **Class Schedule and Readings**

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 Sexual Misconduct Cases Activity

Week 3- Legal Ethics and Legal Profession

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

Ken Murray Case: Obstruction of Justice Activity

Week 4- 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  
 Media Representations of Crime Newspaper Activity

Week 5: Due Process and Crime Control Models of the Criminal Process (No readings)

Week 6: 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  
 TedXTalk Critical Reflection "What Rights and Freedoms?"  
 "RCMPs Denial of Bathroom Breaks:" Police Interrogation Methods and Models of Crime  
 Control Activity

Week 7: Civil Litigation and Tort Law  
 Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 80-88  
 Chapter 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 195-200

Week 8: Contracts and Contract Law – Principles Underlying Civil Law (No readings)

Week 9: Principles of the Criminal Law  
 Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 138-142  
 Dan and Ladue Case Studies: Establishing *Actus Reus* and Requisite Intent Activity  
 Pierce Fisheries Ltd. Case Study Activity

Week 10: 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 11: Family Law and Social Policy  
 Chapter 7: Law and Social Change pp. 211-212

Week 12: The Legislation of Morality – Drug Legislation and Social Policy  
 Chapter 4: Lawmaking pp. 109-111  
 Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 147-154

Week 13: Laws and Social Policy Relate to Prostitution  
 Chapter 3: The Organization of Law pp. 105-106  
 Chapter 4: Law-Making pp. 120-122  
 Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp. 154-158  
 Final CRP Activity- 'Complete the Stem:' The law is...

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**Please read the following very carefully!**

### **Missed Examinations and Tests**

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.

**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.