

University of Waterloo
 Department of Political Science
 Fall 2012

PSCI 291 The Canadian Legal Process

Room: DC 1351
 Time: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.
 Instructor: Marie Armstrong
 Email: Please communicate through LEARN
 Text: Introduction to Law in Canada, Captus Press
 (2011 custom edition, same as last year)
 Note: The 2010 edition does not include two chapters that will be used this year.
 One copy of the text is on reserve in Dana Porter – 2 hour limit.
 Office hours: By appointment
 Also, you are welcome to speak with me before or after class.

Law is everywhere! Did you ride the bus or drive to campus this evening? There is law involved in that. Did you eat a meal at a restaurant this week? Do you have a student loan? Law again. Law is everywhere!

This course offers a general introduction to some fundamental principles of the legal system in English-speaking Canada. We will discuss the systems, sources and types of law in Canada, and then move on to the constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the court system in Ontario, including those who play key roles in the courts – lawyers and judges. We will cover some important areas of substantive law, including criminal, tort, contract and family law.

The lecture slides will be available on LEARN after class. This enables us to stop at various points during the evening to think about and discuss the concepts. Cases relevant to the concepts will be discussed as well – slides will not be posted for the cases. If you cannot attend class for some reason, please make arrangements to obtain notes about the discussions and cases from a classmate. Points made during discussions and cases discussed may be on the exams.

Questions: You are encouraged to ask questions. That is how we learn.

Lecture No.	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Sept. 12	Course Structure Introduction to Legal Studies	Course outline Chapter 1
2	Sept. 19	Systems of Law in Canada Sources of Law Types of Law	Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4
Online Quiz 1 will be available from Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 11:00 p.m. to Saturday, Sept. 22 at 11:00 p.m. 45 minutes to complete.			
3	Sept. 26	The Constitution Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
4	Oct. 3	The Court System in Ontario The Legal Profession in Ontario	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Online Quiz 2 will be available from Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 11:00 p.m. to Saturday, Oct. 6 at 11:00 p.m. 45 minutes to complete.			

5	Oct. 10	Criminal Law Criminal Procedure	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
6	Oct. 17	Midterm – DC 1351 and MC 1056	
7	Oct. 24	The Law of Contract	Chapter 11
8	Oct. 31	Debtors' Rights & Creditors' Remedies	Chapter 12
Online Quiz 3 will be available from Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 11:00 p.m. to Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11:00 p.m. 45 minutes to complete.			
9	Nov. 7	The Law of Torts	Chapter 13
10	Nov. 14	Family Law	Chapter 14
Online Quiz 4 will be available from Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 11:00 p.m. to Saturday, Nov. 17 at 11:00 p.m. 45 minutes to complete.			
11	Nov. 21	Estate Planning	Chapter 15
12	Nov. 28	Review	
Exam	Will be held during the exam period Dec. 6 – Dec. 20, date and time assigned by the Registrar's Office		

ASSESSMENT

Online Quiz 1 5% (Sept. 19 – 22) Online Quiz 2 5% (Oct. 3 – 6)
Midterm 35% (Oct. 17)
Online Quiz 3 5% (Oct. 31 – Nov. 3) Online Quiz 4 5% (Nov. 14 – 17)
Final exam 45% (during exam period Dec. 8 – 22)

There will be four, open book, online quizzes which are not cumulative, based on the text only. You are to work alone. Each quiz has 30 questions - multiple choice, true/false, matching. You will have 45 minutes from the time you access the quiz. LEARN Support recommends that you avoid using a wireless connection.

If you experience technical difficulties that interfere with completing a quiz, you must advise me immediately by leaving a message at (519) 888-4567 x 37549 and then via email within 12 hours. Include in both: name, student number, the time you experienced the problem, the nature of the problem. Failure to do so will result in zero on the quiz.

There will be a mid-term examination, worth 35% of your total grade. The midterm will consist of up to 100 questions - multiple choice, true/false. You will write it during class time on October 17. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. It may include any material covered in the assigned readings, class lectures and discussions and any supplemental material provided. No materials or aids are permitted.

There will be a final examination, worth 45% of your total grade. The final examination will not be cumulative. It may include any material covered after the midterm in the assigned readings, class lectures and discussions and any supplemental material. The final examination will consist of up to 100 questions - multiple choice, true/false. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. No materials are allowed in the examination room.

The date and location of the final examination will be determined by the Registrar's Office. I do not set the exam schedule and I cannot change the date of the exam. DO NOT make travel arrangements before knowing your exam schedule. Note: Travel plans are not acceptable grounds for requesting an alternate exam time.

A medical certificate is required if you miss a quiz or exam due to illness and wish to request accommodation. Verification of illness must be provided to me for consideration by email within 48 hours of the missed assessment; the original must be provided to me at the next class. http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Conduct and Behaviour Expectations

It is important that we are respectful towards each other and make the most of the time we have.

The following basic principles should help to make our time together a positive experience.

1. Every student has the right to learn.
2. Every student has the responsibility not to deprive others of their right to learn.
3. One person speaks at a time. If someone else has the floor, remain quiet. Chit-chat is distracting.
4. Cell phones are to be set to vibrate.
5. Eat responsibly. Avoid impacting others (through noise or odour).

In order for you to get the most out of this class, please consider the following:

- Attend scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive. If you must leave early, please arrive early enough to take a seat in the back row.
- Laptops are for (quiet) note taking: other activities such as checking e-mail, watching a hockey game or making a purchase on eBay are distracting to you and to others.

Please let me know right away if you have a problem that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class. I care about you and your success.

NOTE ON AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her 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 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>

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>

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>

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.