

DRC2117 – Introduction to the Study of Law

Nawwar Wannous

nwannous@uottawa.ca

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The course of Introduction to the Study of Law will be taught virtually (Zoom), subject to University and Law Faculty directives and guidelines.

This course is presented in English. As part of your assessment will be based on student's language abilities. Therefore, it is recommended that you take appropriate measures to avoid spelling, syntax, punctuation errors, inappropriate use of terms, etc.

Course Description

This course will introduce the Canadian legal system. The course will begin with the fundamentals of Canada's legal framework and the common and civil law traditions. We will then survey the basics of several areas of law (including criminal law, contracts, and the court process) to illustrate the sources, techniques, and research resources of Canadian law.

This is a three-credit course. The prerequisite for the course is 18 university credits.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students should have an understanding of:

- The major legal systems (in particular the civil law and the common law).
- The main sources of Canadian law (constitution, legislation, case law).
- The fundamental techniques of civil law and common law.
- The Canadian judiciary.
- The main documentary sources for legal research.

Students should also have an understanding of the basics of the legal doctrines and techniques covered in class and be able to apply them to hypothetical factual scenarios.

Teaching Methods

This is a lecture-based class, which will incorporate discussions and in-class activities. Students are required to completed the assigned readings.

Students should expect to spend at least 6 hours per week on assignments, readings, and study outside of the classroom, for a total of 9 hours per week on average, per course.

Evaluation Method

5 %	Court observation assignment (Students to attend one hour of a court proceeding and submit a one-page written report)	Due Nov. 15
25 % (Non-prejudicial)	Mid-term exam (if a student's grade on the final exam is higher, his or her midterm grade will be disregarded)	Oct. 9
70 %	Final exam	Date: TBD

Reading Material

Assigned readings will consist primarily of excerpts from Court cases, statutes, textbooks, and journal articles. All readings will be posted to Brightspace in PDF format.