

big book

OF COURSE REVIEWS

MAY 2021

canons of construction



Canons' Big Book of Course Reviews: 2021-22 Academic Year

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ADVOCACY AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

Advocacy (Kelly, Kirk)

Took Advocacy with Liam Kelly and Mike Kirk this past term and LOVED it. Our class was all 3Ls and it was entirely assignment/presentation based. It consisted of an uncontested and contested chambers application (written materials and oral), conducting a questioning and doing one portion of a mock trial. The amount of work necessary to prepare wasn't crazy either in my opinion. It has been one of the most helpful courses I've ever taken and so many of us said that we thought it should be a required course to set yourself up well for articling and practice. Liam Kelly and Mike Kirk are extremely down to earth, give tons of feedback, and bring in actual justices/masters to preside over the applications. Literally can't say enough good things about this course!

Mediation Advocacy (Kobewka, Hilborn)

This class is not as beneficial as one might expect. It's composed of creating several documents in preparation for a mock

mediation at the end of term, but the professors give you next to no instructions and assume you know how to draft these documents already. While it is an easy B for most students, their grading is woefully imbalanced as they will pick apart trivialities and minutia for some, but not for others. Take Alternative Dispute Resolution or Techniques in Negotiation instead.

Techniques in Negotiation (Kash)

Any class taught by Brian Kash is a course that you should take. Classes are interactive and engaging with preparations to negotiate and actual negotiations. He also shares stories from his practice related to negotiation and professional ethics issues. There is an email negotiation and a paper in which you apply negotiation principles from the textbook to an example from popular culture. Very good class, as it teaches you practical and soft skills in the most uncomfortable and memorable way possible: by messing it up the first time so you never forget.

CORPORATE LAW:

Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions (Maharaj, Grout)

A recommended course for any student that wants to practice as a corporate solicitor. Obviously, corporate M&A is but one slice of practice in the corporate world, but it's a big slice. The course is generally favourable to people that prefer to work through a series of projects rather than cram for an exam at the end of the year. The projects are practical (ie: advising on a possible business combination) and force you to engage with relevant and applicable materials (ie: not just some wonky textbook). A word of warning, though—the expectations are high (the instructors are practitioners at a local LARGE firm—and therefore have correspondingly LARGE expectations in the quality of work they grade). Thumbs up for those of you who want to dive into the deep end of the business/corporate law world.

International Business Transactions (Reif)

I would recommend this course for a student who seeks the elusive easy B. There is no substantive engagement on a class-to-class basis needed. Guest speakers were engaging and very helpful for developing an understanding of the course material.

Commercial Transactions (Wood)

The most useful part of this course was the assignments. The assignments tasked you with completing the sort of work that a solicitor might actually be engaged in. The majority of your learning will come from trying to figure out the assignments. This is

a great class for spreading out your workload over an entire semester, as each assignment is due approximately once a month and each covers around a third of the class.

Bankruptcy and Insolvency (Wood)

This course has an option for grading. Students can elect to complete a short paper on some topic relating to bankruptcy. Students taking this option will receive 50% of their grade from the paper and 50% from the exam. The alternative is the traditional 100% exam. This is a good class for students looking to maximize their learning. Professor Wood is very knowledgeable and offers a fair amount of practical advice. I enjoyed the course. The readings are lighter than other classes and fairly interesting. This course compliments well with PPSL and Judgment Enforcement as all three deal with the same types of things, though each is distinct. It would be a mistake to try and learn this course from the CAN, but it might still be possible. The exam was fair. A useful course for anyone thinking generally about commercial law because insolvency is a live issue and having a knowledge of this could help protect clients. Additionally, the content covered would be hard to pick up on one's own after law school (if you didn't have the help of a senior) because of the interplay between statutes. Overall, an interesting course.

Bankruptcy and Insolvency (Lund)

Lund starts the class with music to set the tone, which says a lot about her teaching style—which is very engaging, but if you miss something in class, it probably won't be on the slides. She does practice questions in class, which are super helpful and low stress even for a slacker like me who doesn't do any readings. There's an optional assignment if you don't want to have a 100% final.

Corporate Securities (Meshel)

Corporate securities is an essential course for anyone looking to practice any form of business law. Professor Meshel is a great teacher who gives you detailed explanations and a robust amount of information. You feel that the class gives you a good basic knowledge of the securities law so you won't be completely lost during practice.

Professor Meshel speaks quickly, so paying attention and having a CAN from a previous year to help catch notes you missed is a necessity. Her exams are very fair and straightforward, so it makes studying the material less daunting.

Corporate Reorganization and Restructuring (Wood)

This course takes off from the restructuring part of the Bankruptcy course (same textbook too, but different sections). It focuses on drafting pleadings/court documents and mootings (at the courts, in front of a judge). Even though the course focuses on the CCAA and "big" restructurings, you learn about all the parties in an action, so I'd say it's useful for people going to any sized firm with an interest in bankruptcy or restructuring.

PROPERTY LAW:

Personal Property and Security Law (Wood)

Recommended course for both potential barristers and solicitors as personal property security has implications in banking, real estate, construction, and general litigation work. While the entire course could be summarized with two words: “register everything;” it is still useful to understand the common pitfalls of securing interests in collateral in order to avoid making the same mistakes in your own practice. Most of the cases in the case book seem to cite Professor Wood. Wood really is an expert in the subject matter, who really cares about the subject and more importantly cares about his students understanding the subject. To a lot of people, the subject matter of the course is dull, and there are some cases in the readings which feel like they never end. A recommended course, as it is likely easier to learn this in law school than in practice. Wood is a great professor, he provides clear presentations and his online text is phenomenal—if you study it, you can do very well. Also, the only professor who seems to use the calendar in TWEN (hint: this is where the readings for classes are found). The midterm is closed book, but the final is open book. He also does quizzes (not graded) in class that are helpful in preparing for the exams.

Judgement Enforcement (Lund)

Great course. There are some classes that contain information that everyone should know, lawyer or not. Judgement enforcement is one such class. Anna Lund does a great job balancing theory/case law and the practical aspects of judgment

enforcement. In terms of work, the assignments are short, but still take time and effort. Attendance and participation are taken into account so absentee students take note. She is fair, a good lecturer, and her slides are very comprehensive. While it is not a prerequisite, you will have an advantage over your peers if you have taken PPSL before taking judgement enforcement.

Real Estate Transactions (Kortbeek)

The grade is determined by a 100% final. The exam is closed book, except for an unaltered course syllabus. The readings are either cases or real-world precedents and real estate forms, and Nancy incorporates lots of examples of how principles play out in practice into lectures. I feel like I'm learning a lot of good "need-to-know" information for both practice and just real life. Just be warned, though—the LSA CAN is super out of date, so best to ask around to get an updated CAN if you want one, because most of the class is just Nancy lecturing, with minimal powerpoints.

Intellectual Property (McDonald, Yoo)

This course is recommended for any student who wants to maximize their knowledge of Intellectual Property and generally wants to sound impressive by saying they took IP to their non-law friends. The course summarizes the four main areas of IP law: copyright, trademarks, patents and industrial design. Taught by practitioners, McDonald and Yoo have lots of stories about their experiences in IP law that help to make the material more interesting. The class is split into two papers approximately 10 pages each, one

about patents or industrial design and the other about copyright or trademarks. Students should be warned that the marks for the first paper came back very slowly (like one week before the second paper was due) and had minimal feedback—so it could be difficult if you are not the most confident about writing a research paper.

Intellectual Property (Hutchison)

The main benefit of taking this class is that Hutchison literally wrote the book on intellectual property, so it is an area that he knows extremely well. While the material covers the four main areas of IP law, Hutchison spends roughly half the class covering copyright law. Hutchison's lecturing style can be difficult to engage with (it kind of comes off like he doesn't want to be there himself), but he is open to meeting with students and seemingly has an easier time explaining the material in a one-on-one setting. Evaluation is a 100% final, which in previous years has reportedly been curved harshly. Also note that the LSA CAN is several years out-of-date, although this class is fairly straightforward and easy to follow.

Musicians and the Law (Hutchison)

Only recommended for students who are actually interested in music or entertainment law, or perhaps intellectual property law. This is not a snoozer of a course. There is constant work throughout the term, and a CAN will not help you. With low enrolment, it's likely that you'll get a good grade, but it's no guaranteed A. It may seem counterintuitive, but this was one of the most practical courses that I've taken in law school. The course requires you to learn an area of law, prepare for a negotiation, conduct a negotiation, and then draft a contract that captures the

results of that negotiation. Also, it's fascinating subject matter—you get to read cases about The Doors.

Trusts (McInnes)

A highly recommended course with an absolutely fantastic, above-and-beyond knowledgeable professor who literally wrote for/edits the textbook that the SCC references when it has a trusts case. The course begins with a clear introduction that situates trust law within the wider legal system in Canada. While some of the subject matter can feel technical and unrelatable, McInnes goes out of his way to provide a holistic approach to the area of law and it eventually all fits together. Lectures run at a fast pace, and it would be wise to do a quick review of your 1L notes on equity and trusts before the first class. There is an optional midterm, and avoiding the optional midterm is not detrimental. (Also, his dry humour will help you get through your day easier.) If you're on the fence about this course, take it. And don't be deterred by people who say it's hard—it gives you a lot to chew on, for sure, but that's part of the fun of it.

Wills and Administration (Bonora, Lafuente)

The professors attempted to take a different approach to teaching this class by making the major project a drafting assignment rather than a final or paper. Students are paired up with a classmate and are tasked with drafting a will, power of attorney, and personal directive based on the estate planning document provided by their partner. The professors originally planned to draft genuine wills, but after students complained about revealing personal info, the wills were for fictional people, although they hope to change this

for future classes. The other major assignment students have is the presentation of a case, which is straightforward; students choose their case at the start of the year so there is plenty of time to prepare. This was a really interesting class thanks to the approach the professors took. They are lawyers at Dentons, so their knowledge and passion for the material is apparent. It helps make the three-hour long classes entertaining and engaging. If there is an issue with the class, it is that there is so little feedback on how to improve on the drafting assignment. I couldn't tell you what I did wrong or what I did right. It's nice to get the drafting experience, but it felt like it could have been done better.

This course is really interesting if you are interested in wills and the administration of estates. The professors are both very engaging with lots of real-world stories to make the material more engaging, although Klaray tends to jump around a lot. The material isn't too onerous as there are just a few cases to read each week and they are also covered sufficiently in class. Some slides are uploaded to TWEN as PDF documents, which can make it difficult to use them for making CANs. Klaray and Gordon went through extensive reworking of this course to make it have logical developments in the course material as opposed to jumping around materials. They also incorporated practical tips. For example, on what to look for in a client's capacity when making their will so that you won't get in trouble later and how to get the beneficiaries to sign off on an interim distribution order. The mark is based on a 100% open book exam.

Wills and Administration (Klaray, Gordon)

RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT:

Environmental Law (Jefferies)

If you have any interest in environmental law, this is the BEST class to take. It's a good introductory course to environmental law, covering diverse/fascinating environmental issues. Also, if you have any interest in international law, this class will provide an in-depth analysis on a topic that has ever-increasing relevance in global affairs. International environmental law is Professor Jefferies' area of interest, so he is really passionate/knowledgeable about it. It is an exam-based course with an optional midterm (multiple choice/short answer) that is fail-safe and a final exam (some multiple choice, some short answer/long answer, some hypotheticals). The textbook is comprehensive, but expensive. You should buy used, share a copy, or sign it out from the library when you need it.

Basic Oil and Gas Law (Percy)

Although not an easy "B" class, this class is great for people looking to increase their knowledge on this area of law. If you are looking to work in energy law, this course is an obvious choice. You could probably pick up an Oil and Gas CAN and learn the course from there, but it's a pleasure to listen and interact with Professor Percy.

Basic Oil and Gas Law (Jefferies)

I know, I know, oil and gas is supposed to be dead, right? So why should you take a class on it? While it is true that Canada is

beginning its movement away from fossil fuels into renewable energy for the foreseeable future oil and gas will be playing a pivotal role in Alberta's economy, and accordingly for a lot of firms as well. Jefferies is a great professor that truly works hard to make sure that students understand the material and to make it interesting. Broadly speaking, the course is split into two parts. At the beginning it is a lot of property law learning who owns what in an oil and gas reservoir; then it transitions into learning all about PNG leases and learning how to avoid the common pitfalls. Split into a open book, failsafe quiz (in COVID times, at least) and final, this class is not an excessive amount of work. An obvious yes for anyone looking to work in Calgary or in the Energy group at a firm with an iconic prof.

Water Law (Percy)

Water law is a subject that Percy has a real expertise and interest in, and this is evident throughout the course. The readings are light, and this is a paper-based class. While water and law are often not considered together, the course is very informative, very interesting, and hopefully will be useful in practice. Additionally, Percy offers a list of suggested paper topics, and always has an open-door policy and is eager to help students in all stages of their papers.

CRIMINAL LAW:

Advanced Criminal Law (Beresh)

The course expands upon the many defences in criminal law. Beresh likes to start each class by discussing the news pertinent to criminal law, as well as his own stories. Participation is worth 25% and you'll be expected to understand each case before coming to class, but the course reader shortens the cases down to just the important parts. If you raise your hand, be prepared for any number of follow-up questions on cases, policy and general issues (and hypotheticals—endless hypotheticals). Other than participation mark, the only assignment is a 20-something page factum. Although the discussion was interesting, I did not find that it added much more to my crim knowledge from 1L.

Advanced Criminal Trial Advocacy (Sparks, Tate)

This course is a lot of work. You have to want to practice criminal litigation, or else you will not enjoy it. That said, those interested in criminal law will find that this course is an absolutely essential course to take. Suggest taking this course in third year because it draws on so many other classes: Evidence, Sentencing, Criminal Procedure, and Advocacy. It is very much a “learn by doing” class and there is a ton of information to process. The simulated trial moot is several hours and takes place on a Saturday in March. This course is amazing, at times very difficult yet extremely educational.

Criminal Procedure (Aloneissi, O'Neill)

As a non-mandatory course, most of my classmates had some interest in criminal law. The lectures are fairly comparable to

other courses. O'Neill and Aloneissi are both knowledgeable and have a sense of humour. They are usually present at all the lectures with each teaching half of the class. The exam is based on the textbook [a “keeper” for anyone interested in practicing criminal law] and you can do well simply studying from a CAN. This course is highly recommended for anyone with an interest or curiosity in criminal law.

Criminal Procedure (Penney)

Penney teaches in his flipped classroom model, expecting students to do the readings and watch his topic videos before attending class. He provides little formal instruction in class and mostly relies on class problems to help students understand the concepts. Class problems consist of different fact scenarios that students use to answer questions on TopHat. However, there are no marks for in-class participation as it's a 100% final. Definitely recommend it if you are interested in practicing criminal law and Penney is an excellent teacher.

Advanced Evidence (Seaman, Quinlan)

An in-depth examination of interesting and controversial areas of evidence (credibility of unreliable informants/child witnesses, etc). A small class focused on open discussion. Two instructors—one Crown, one defence—so you get an interesting and broad perspective of the topic. This paper course also requires submission of weekly discussion questions based on readings prior to class.

Law and Policing (Allan)

Law and policing taught by Malcolm Allan was the highlight of my law school

experience so far. The class was a 3 hour seminar and each week was a mini-course on a different topic related to policing. From emergency scene management to use of force, interrogations and homicide investigations. The speakers brought in were very knowledgeable with an obvious passion for their work. The atmosphere was

very relaxed and the topics were interesting. If you want to get an appreciation for the work police officers do, and to see things from their perspective, a highly recommended class. There is an additional bonus of not having any readings and being a pretty low-stress class.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW:

Employment Law (Funk)

There's a reason this class gets filled up by 2Ls every spring during enrollment time. Even though Funk teaches at 8 AM, her energy and excitement to be there will probably make you forget that you never get to see the sunlight anymore. A comprehensive course that is essentially an application of contract law, you look at the ways that an employee can be terminated and the damages that flow from it, what duties an employee owes to an employer after they leave and various other topical discussions including whether Uber has employees or independent contractors. Readings are long comparative to other courses but have interesting fact patterns and are generally from within the last 20 years, meaning plain English. There's a 100% open book final but warning, there is no Funk CAN currently on the LSA website (though this may change soon and Adams' CAN is a sufficient substitute).

Employment Law (Scott, Lemon)

Interesting and varying approaches of the two professors, who both present the course material in a fairly engaging way. Employment law felt like a lot of repetition of basic tests, but applying those tests to interesting fact scenarios was actually a lot of fun. Reading wasn't too heavy, and it wasn't particularly difficult to get the gist of topics by just going to class and maybe

doing some light skimming of the TWEN resources provided. The profs are two lovely practitioners who know their stuff and can teach it in a way that makes sense. If you're on the fence, take it—there are no bad profs currently when it comes to taking Employment Law.

Labour Law (Nekolaichuk)

This class was very straight-forward and the exam was extremely fair. It is not the most interesting subject, but it was useful and the professor was very thorough and knew what he was talking about.

Labour Arbitration (Nugent)

Labour law is not a prerequisite for this course. Through his lectures, Professor Nugent provides students with a foundational understanding of labour law, as well as discusses current and interesting cases. All of the assignments are relatively short in length and are practical, as they mimic the work that you would be given as a student in a law firm. I thoroughly enjoyed the mock arbitration and Professor Nugent provided excellent, constructive feedback. The skills developed in this course are not only applicable in the labour law context, but are applicable to any context which involves the need for thorough research and the use of written and oral advocacy skills.

TAX AND INSURANCE LAW:

Taxation (Sprysak)

A highly recommended course for everyone who has, does, or will pay taxes in their lifetime. Sprysak is very approachable and brings his sense of humour into the classroom. Tax law can be scary/boring but he doesn't expect any previous knowledge and goes through the material (very) clearly and at a pace that everyone can keep up with. The course structure and minimal required reading mean that all you have to do to get a B is show up and sort of pay attention. Sprysak also allows a one sheet "comfort sheet" in the exam that results in some students claiming they have the entire course on one sheet, font size 4. A thoroughly practical class, which even if you do not want to practice tax law will teach you when to pick up the phone to find a tax lawyer.

Corporate Taxation (Dolson)

Only take this class if you are interested in practicing tax. Taking this class out of interest is NOT a good idea. The professor is incredibly smart, nice, and helpful; however, the lectures themselves are quick and describe the subjects as though we have all practiced accounting. This is not a progression from Basic Tax. The final exam is quite challenging and a combination of tricky multiple choice questions and written response. The curve is also particularly challenging as all accountants that are in law school will inevitably take this course. Nevertheless, many different parts of corporate tax are covered and the majority of it is pertinent to tax practice.

Estate Planning (Sprysak)

Everyone who really liked Tax Law, might draft wills in the future, or is interested in financial management should take this course. Estate Planning isn't the cake-walk that Tax Law is, but it's still not a particularly challenging class. Like its predecessor, the majority of the notes are provided on TWEN, and there are minimal readings. Getting a high B or even an A is entirely possible if you put in a moderate amount of work.

Accounting for Lawyers (Sprysak)

This course is a great accompaniment for Introductory Tax. Sprysak covers the role of financial statements and other calculations that are used in Income Tax determinations. If you've taken accounting in undergrad, there will be lots of overlap in the first half of the course, but then Sprysak will cover novel material such as Trust Accounting and bookkeeping for law firms. It is not a particularly difficult class, and can only serve as an even greater foundation for the other tax, trust, and estate courses offered by the faculty.

Insurance Law (Billingsley)

Dean Billingsley's insurance class is a non-required course for anyone not purposely avoiding a 100% final. It's not the class for you if you plan to skip class and learn from CANs, but this class will be valuable if you plan to practice in any sort of civil law. Dean Billingsley's lectures, regardless of topic, are some of the clearest and most practical on offer. She alone would be a good reason to take this class. Apart from Dean Billingsley's skill as a

professor, her course content also has an edge over other insurance classes. Apart from substantive insurance law, Dean Billingsley covers the insurance system's unique statutory rights and procedures in detail. Litigating an insurance issue can evolve into a multi-action, multi-party mess. Studying insurance law with any professor here is a very good choice.

Insurance Law (Grose, Paetz)

A highly recommended course for any student who has an interest in tort or

contract law. Insurance law is a great combination of both. This class is great to learn straight from the CAN. My computer crashed two days before the exam, but I still did quite well on the exam with a borrowed CAN. Both instructors are very approachable and get straight to the point with the cases. There is no philosophy of the law with this course; they teach on a need to know basis.

FAMILY AND HEALTH:

Family Law (Johnson, MacKenzie)

This course is taught by two practitioners who are obviously well-experienced in the area of family law practice. In non-COVID years the class is composed of a family law assignment and a final exam. The assignment isn't very hard and it is nice to only have a 70% exam as opposed to a 100% one. However, in 2020/2021 due to COVID the format was changed to a 100% final. Additionally, no slides or visual aids were used in class. This made the class difficult to follow at times. The instructors expect you to keep up with the fast pace so make sure your typing skills are up to par, as this class also was not recorded. You will likely have to produce a property division statement on the final! Both professors tell good stories about practicing.

Family Law (Friedland)

This class is really good for providing a sociological viewpoint into Family Law, which is heavily statutorily based. As an academic, Hadley is really knowledgeable on how and why the laws have changed to reflect the current conditions. She touches on some aspects found in actual practice but the class most centers on an academic understanding of Family Law. She also posts easy to follow along slideshows for every class on TWEN and the readings are manageable (if you even choose to do them), with a 100% final. She is also one of the few professors who will discuss child welfare.

Family Law Practice Issues (Hebert, Stokes)

Only students who have a strong interest in family law should take this course. It gives you a strong understanding of family law court forms. The assignments are interesting, but there was not much guidance provided by the professors in completing them.

Biotechnology Policy (Caulfield)

The course would be good for anyone with an interest in science, especially those with an interest in how public opinion and media affect policy on emerging issues. It would also be good for someone who wants a straightforward paper course or a course where they don't have to take notes. Professor Caulfield prefers papers that are around 20 pages, which is shorter than a lot of other paper courses. The course is led by a lecture, although Professor Caulfield encourages questions and discussion. He is a good presenter and keeps the lecture lively. No prior knowledge is required, as all the lectures cover background before covering policy. Some of the topics covered were stem cells, cloning, biobanks, and genetic testing. Overall, the course was useful to learn about emerging issues in biotech and gain insight into the critical role public perception plays in government policy creation.

Health Care Ethics and the Law (Nelson)

This class is awesome for those who are interested in legal issues in the health care context. It's probably not for those looking for a fluff course or an easy A, but you will learn a lot. It is an enjoyable class. It's a three-hour class once a week, and the readings take about one to two hours.

Reading the materials is not absolutely necessary for you to be able to participate in class, but it definitely helps you get more out of the class. There were only about 15 people in the class, and most of the class consisted of discussion with a few group exercises here and there. Talking and sharing your opinions is a huge part of this class, so if you're not comfortable with that, this class might not be for you. Also, be sure to start your paper early! There were lots of lively class discussions about interesting and modern issues involving the ethics and law surrounding health care. It was cool to hear everyone's different views on issues and it really helped me gain some perspective on some topics. Professor Nelson can be a tough marker and a little harsh with her comments. That being said, her grades seemed pretty fair. However, be wary of Nelson's penchant for nit-picking any presumptions you make in your paper no matter how obvious.

Law and Medicine (Nelson)

If you want to take this course, it is recommended that you have at least some interest in health law and medical torts, as the material in this class is quite focused on medical policy and malpractice issues. You can do as much or as little reading as you want. Class participation can easily be done without doing the readings, but you will get more out of it if you at least skim the readings or find a brief online.

Medical Malpractice Law (Forster, Miller)

The cases in this course are very technical. I would recommend this class only if you are actually interested in medical malpractice law, as the issues are very, well, specific. The prof does make the content easy to understand, and a lot of marks come from attendance-based participation, which is nice. You also get to choose your own topic for the paper, which is nice, but the final paper is quite long—15 pages, 1.5-line spacing.

PUBLIC LAW:

Constitutional Litigation (Feehan, McDaniel)

The class is a great choice for a student who wants to take a more practical course and has an interest in litigation. I took it because I wanted the moot experience but didn't think I would have the time to devote to a competitive moot, and it worked well for that purpose. The course was challenging and there wasn't a lot of handholding, but it is still fairly easy to get an average grade in the course (~B) since the workload is not crazy. If you want to do really well in the class, it will take some extra effort and saving it until 3L may be a good idea. The lectures can be a bit dry; this is unfortunate, given the compelling and dynamic nature of constitutional law. Further, the assignments are not explained properly and end up taking more time to complete for that reason.

Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Law (Szigeti)

This feels like an undergraduate course in the best way. Szigeti provides a 40-minute lecture each class, after which two students do an interactive learning game/presentation about the material. The prof provides an interdisciplinary look at the principles of immigration and law. Another bonus is that there is no required

textbook and he posts all relevant materials on TWEN, although sometimes it can be difficult to understand what to take away from each reading as he does not spend much time on them in his lectures. This class does have a distinctive slant towards an almost theoretical approach to Immigration Law, which might be good for some and bad for others. The in-class presentation is worth 30% of the final grade, participation is worth 10%, and the remaining 60% is a final.

Municipal and Planning Law (Noce)

This course is an in-depth study of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) along with many stories from Noce about his practice and his time as a city councilor. There are not many notes to make during the lectures other than noting sections of the MGA to review. The coursebook was reasonable in length, though readings are not really necessary as everything is explained in class. There is a portion of the mark based on attendance and participation. All in all, this class is one that is easy to pass, and Noce admits that on the first day. Noce was also passionate about giving students tips on professional development, which were an added bonus to the class.

INTERNATIONAL LAW:

Public International Law (Harrington)

This is the foundational course for international law and the first half can be a

little basic if you have previously studied international relations, with introductions on states and treaties. Usually, Professor

Harrington holds a midterm exam worth 20% before proceeding with the remainder of the course which becomes much more interesting. However, due to COVID, the midterm was changed into two short assignments worth 10%. The final exam is worth 80% and the format is restricted open book: you can bring the course text and one sheet of paper. Overall, I would recommend this course if you have any interest in international law or if you just want an exam-based course to break up your schedule. If you want to do well, then you really need to do the readings, highlight meaningful parts, and put them into your notes. Also, make sure you attend her review sessions!

International Dispute Settlement (Harrington)

This is a paper-based course that requires smaller related assignments such as a bibliography. Prof Harrington gives helpful feedback through her step-by-step paper writing assignments and devotes some classes research techniques and citation help. This makes her class excellent for people who might not have written a law school paper before. She has amazing stories that make the class worth attending and she is a great instructor who is realistic about expectations around readings. She also brings in relevant world events and gives context and background to them.

Public International Law (Reif)

An enjoyable course, even for those who have no particular interest in the subject. Reif's

slides are helpful and detailed. There is both a paper (relatively short) and an exam. If you only take one international law class, this is definitely the one to take because it covers everything and gives you a good basis.

International Human Rights Law (Reif)

Pretty standard paper course, but with a presentation. Some of this class is a repeat of Public International Law. The second half of the semester is student-led seminars, where everyone has to present on their paper topic. Reif is great if you need help with your paper. You don't strictly need to do the readings, but it will help your participation grade.

International Criminal Law (Harrington)

The course focuses on the International Criminal Court and its predecessors, as well as the crimes specific to international law, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. This is a great option as long as you are not intimidated by writing a big paper. The assessment is a 7000-word paper with a few smaller elements submitted throughout the term. The list of topics can be very broad allowing you to pursue almost anything of interest. Professor Harrington also sets aside a few classes to do research and writing seminars to explore research techniques specific to international law. She also posts a lot of really helpful information on the TWEN site. The lectures tend to be stand-alone seminars on individual topics, which makes each class really interesting

OTHER:

Canadian Human Rights Law (Raso)

A blend of employment, constitutional, labour, and admin law, all under the banner of human rights. A great class to tie everything you've learned in other classes

together and explore those ideas through a human rights lens. Interesting material and not too onerous course work.

Indigenous Peoples and the Law (Bell)

[This course was taught for many years by Bell, who is retiring this year, but the professor for the 2021-22 year will be announced soon.] Great paper-based course. This course is interdisciplinary – it is about the interaction of Canadian law and indigenous peoples. It is a fantastic review of treaties, and then modern case law concerning aboriginal rights. Focuses a good amount of content on both domestic aboriginal issues as well as how international law influences the area. Professor Bell is extremely knowledgeable, engaged and enthusiastic about the subject, so much so that it's infectious. There is a lot of flexibility in terms of the kind of paper one can write – overall it is a really well run seminar and a great class to take. You can get by without doing the readings and just focusing on writing a good paper.

Low Income Individuals and the Law (Bell/Weaver)

This course presents a great opportunity to gain some experience working in law, however, unfortunately some of the placements have been hit or miss—some placements are great, and some are seriously lacking. When going through the interview process for this course you have a chance to pick/indicate your preference— do your research about the placements beforehand. The parts of the course that are led by both Professors Bell *[who is retiring this year, but will be replaced by Professor Lund]* and Weaver are excellent. There is a high expectation to participate in class, however both professors lead discussions, making it pretty easy.

Law and Social Media (Yahya)

This class accepts five students per year, and it consists of a blog project that is entirely student run from Sept-April. If you like writing and research enough to complete a 500-700 word blog post each week for the entire school year, then you should consider

applying. It is a great class if you prefer weekly assignments to an exam, but you have to be diligent in completing your work and attending meetings. The topic for next year has not yet been decided! *[This class is historically taught by Yahya, but the prof for 2021-22 is currently TBA.]*

Statutory Interpretation (Hutchison)

This is a challenging course. The subject matter is dry and Professor Hutchison's teaching style does not help with keeping students engaged in the material. This class utilizes his own written textbook which helps explain the issues in a much clearer way than the actual in-class discussions. Reading ahead is highly recommended for this class, if only so because you will be lost otherwise. The evaluation of the course was two short papers where you are asked to interpret a fictional statute, as well as an in-class presentation. Overall I found it to be a useful class that bleeds into nearly every other course I have taken, but it is one I feel you will only get something out of if you are aware of Hutchison's teaching style and don't mind it.