

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY
GEOGRAPHY 3415B:
Geographic Perspectives on Law and Society
January to April 2014**

Lecturer: G.J. Levine, Ph.D., LL.B. Barrister and Solicitor

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Classes: Tuesdays 5:30 to & 8:30 pm

Location: (Please note room change) **Room 1059 SSC**

General Course Description:

Law is a mechanism through which societies order social life, regulate behaviour and resolve disputes. Law influences and sometimes determines spatial and environmental relations and, dialectically, they transform law. Throughout the past twenty-five years, geographers have studied this interplay. This course is an introduction to the approaches geographers have used and to some of the substantive issues which they have encountered. More particularly it outlines approaches such as impact analysis, political economic analysis, and socio-cultural analysis and it encourages discussion on topics such as the spacing of urbanism through tools such as zoning and social, cultural and environmental regulation through mechanisms such as protection of property generally; the interplay of property and environmental protection; environment, torts contract and liability; rights, privacy and surveillance; trespass law and restriction of the use of public space and; health law and the geography of health.

Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth year status at the University

General Course Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Law, Geography, and Geographical Approaches to Law
3. Readings on Themes and Topics on Geography and Law
4. Student Presentations on Law and Geography Research Papers

Note - The Themes and Topic section will include consideration of a variety of general topics including such things as Charter Rights, Privacy and Surveillance, Property – Trespass, Public Space, Land Use and Zoning, Environmental Law, Environmental Rights and Resource Management, and, Health Law and Health Geography. The Student Presentations section may include topics within those areas and other areas so long as they fit with the study of geography of law.

Course Expectations and Objectives:

Objectives

To expose geography students to the variety of topics being explored by geographers interested in law as an object of study

To raise awareness about the range of research perspectives which inform work in the area of geography of law, many of which inform cultural and human geography generally

To impart basic concepts and knowledge about law and its geographic expression

To encourage students to explore the area by participating in weekly discussions, by making short presentations about course readings, by thinking about the geographic implications of cases and by doing research.

Expectations

Students are expected to do weekly readings, to use reference material, to come prepared to discuss the readings, to ask questions and to take part in the class.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner, to respect their fellow students and the instructor in all interaction in the class. Students are expected to abide by the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and to abide by the University of Western Ontario [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#).

Students are expected to adhere to all academic policies and, in particular, students are to avoid plagiarism and other [Scholastic Offences](#). Students should be aware of their rights respecting [Academic Appeals](#).

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Course Materials:

Course materials are available through links on the course web site, reserve at Weldon Library and E-resources at Weldon. The course web site is:

<http://instruct.uwo.ca/geog/3415>

Course Grading Plan:

Test on Basic Concepts 15%

Article Review 15%

Case Comment 15%

Media Notes 10%

Research Paper and Presentation 30%

Class Participation 15%

Dates for test and submission of written assignments:

Test – Jan.28, 2014; Article Review Feb. 11, 2014; Case Comment March 11, 2014; Essay April 11, 2014. Media Notes are to be submitted at the end of each of January (Jan. 31), February (Feb.28), and March (March 29).

NOTE - ANY ARTICLE REVIEW, CASE COMMENT OR ESSAY HANDED IN LATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO LOSS OF MARKS, 5 MARKS FOR EACH DAY LATE AND ANY ASSIGNMENT PAPER RECEIVED ON THE 5TH DAY AFTER IT WAS DUE WILL NOT BE MARKED. This means 5 out of 20 will be deducted. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WORD OR WORDPERFECT VIA EMAIL BY 4:30 PM OF DAY EACH ARE DUE.

If students miss classes or assignments for medical reasons the policy on accommodation for medical illness applies. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness may be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

As well, there is a Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

NOTE: Accommodation for substantial medical and non-medical absences are to be dealt with by the Dean's Office Faculty of Social Science.

Content of Course Assignments:

Course assignments are outlined in detail on the course web site noted above.

Detailed Reading List:

A detailed reading list is posted on the web site at: <http://instruct.uwo.ca/geog/3415/reading2014.html>