

*Subject to change

LAW 396-4	Topics: Challenges of the Gig Economy
LAW 397-1	Topics: Auto Insurance Law
LAW 397-3	Topics: Insolvency Risk in Business Law
LAW 397-4	Topics: Resolving a Civilian Claim
LAW 398-1	Topics: Environmental Law
LAW 398-2	Topics: Shareholder Activism
LAW 398-3	Topics: Civil Liberties: Dissent & Democracy

LAW 396: Contemporary Topics in Law: 1 credit

Fall: Topic 4: Challenges of the Gig Economy. The use of information technology which enables the performance of work via apps operated by enterprises has become known as “the gig economy”. The undertaking of work in the gig economy has disrupted the labour laws of Ontario and Canada. In particular, the gig economy has partially dismantled the boundaries between employees who are protected by our labour laws, and independent contractors who receive very little labour law protection. This course will adopt a comparative approach to studying the gig economy and labour law in Ontario and Canada, in the United Kingdom and in Australia. In these three jurisdictions whose laws are largely based on the Common Law (noting the differences in the Province of Quebec), the gig economy has caused governments, courts and tribunals to rethink the role of labour law in the 21st Century. From time to time, mention will be made of the position in the United States of America.

LAW 397: Contemporary Topics in Law: 2 credits

Winter: Topic 1: Auto Insurance Law. Auto insurance is mandatory for all drivers in the Province of Ontario, yet the general principles of auto insurance and their application to accidents and injuries is not well understood by lawyers and law students. This course is designed to provide students with a thorough knowledge of the concepts relevant to auto insurance law, with a particular view to educating those students who intend to practice in the fields of personal injury litigation or insurance law generally. These are fast-growing and widespread areas of legal practice, which are responsible for a significant proportion of all civil litigation, as well as regulatory proceedings, private mediations and arbitrations. The focus of this course will be on the interpretation of the auto portions of the *Insurance Act* and its regulations, including relevant case law and decisions of the applicable regulatory bodies.

Winter: Topic 3: Insolvency Risk in Business Law. Insolvency risk affects every element of commercial practice because insolvency laws override contracts and therefore qualify legal rights bargained for in commercial agreements. This course is intended for students interested in corporate finance and commercial transactions such as mergers and acquisitions. It will include an overview of Canada’s insolvency statutes and practice. It will examine provisions in commercial agreements including loan agreements, security documents, leases, licences and other transactional documents that address the future insolvency of contracting parties. It will consider the various positions of constituents affected by insolvency proceedings including lenders, borrowers, suppliers and employees and the priority of their respective claims. It will review the powers of the court to control and direct insolvency proceedings and to approve sale and restructuring transactions.

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Winter: Topic 4: Resolving a Civilian Claim. An introduction to the practical management of a civil litigation file. Skills to be taught include a) interviewing a new client – giving advice to and receiving instructions from that client; b) communicating with opposing counsel; c) putting the opposing party on notice; d) and, if appropriate, engaging in settlement negotiations. The class will be divided in half with students paired with an “opposing party” in a mock litigation exercise.

LAW 398: Contemporary Topics in Law: 3 credits

Fall: Topic 1: Environmental Law. This course provides an introduction to Canadian environmental law, policy, and practice, at both the federal and provincial levels. Where relevant, issues of international environmental law will also be discussed.

Winter: Topic 2: Shareholder Activism. This course will focus on the practice and regulation of shareholder activism in publicly-traded companies. Topics will include the legal and economic impediments to shareholder involvement in corporate affairs, the ways in which some shareholders have sought to influence the governance of firms, the role of securities commissions in regulating shareholder actions and communications, the different types of players in the shareholder activism landscape, and whether shareholder activism benefits the capital markets.

Winter: Topic 3: Civil Liberties: Dissent and Democracy. Introduces students to the theory and practice of civil liberties with a strong focus on Canada. Students critically analyze the rights to freedom of the press, expression, conscience, religion, association and peaceful assembly as they are negotiated in complex contexts that engage with other rights and interests, including privacy, digital rights, access to information and academic freedom. These dimensions of civil liberties have historically been articulated and claimed in opposition to the state, but increasingly, they are also claimed against or in reference to Academe, social media and civil society. The course uses a critical, interdisciplinary, and multimedia approach to situate the spaces and places where dissent and advocacy take place, and invites questions about who dissenters are and their role as contested actors in law and in society.