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| LAW 396-4 | Topics: Challenges of the Gig Economy |
| LAW 396-5 | Topics: International Business Crime |
| LAW 397-3 | Topics: Insolvency Risk in Business Law |
| LAW 397-4 | Topics: Resolving a Civilian Claim |
| 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.

**Winter: Topic 5: International Business Crime.** International business crime will focus on Canadian law and enforcement relating to corruption and related areas such as money laundering, sanctions, procurement, fraud, and other international business matters.  The course will survey the development of anti-corruption regimes by international bodies such as the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and select foreign anti-corruption laws (e.g., U.S. and U.K.). The course will also address the fundamental building blocks of successful internal compliance policies and burgeoning issues businesses face in supply-chain management. Through case studies, students will have an opportunity to develop practical insights into internal and government investigations, case resolution, risk mitigation and compliance.

**LAW 397: Contemporary Topics in Law: 2 credits**

**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.

**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**

**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.