

**FAMILY LAW I  
LAWS 2110.04  
Winter 2009-2010 Syllabus**

**Professors:** D. A. Rollie Thompson and Cynthia L. Chewter

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**Office Hours:** see below; any time by appointment

**Classes:** Mondays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Room 104  
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Room 104

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**Materials**

Thompson and Thomas, *Family Law Casebook 2008-2009* (two volumes and a Statutory Supplement), plus occasional articles and cases handed out in class.

**Evaluation**

100% 3-hour examination (plus reading time) on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 9:30 a.m.– 12:45p.m.

This class is worth 4 credits.

This class has a **closed book** examination. You may only bring your Statutory Supplement into the examination room. Highlighting and underlining are permitted, but no added writing (e.g. annotations or marginal notes) will be permitted at the exam. Keep this in mind when you do the assigned readings from the Statutory Supplement.

**Communication**

Any announcements will be made at the beginning of class. The instructors may also communicate with the class via e-mail to each student's dal.ca account. As students are deemed to have received all e-mail sent to the dal.ca account, students should ensure their account is activated and check it regularly.

**Office Hours**

Prof. Thompson: Mondays 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Prof. Chewter: Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on January 12, 19  
Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on January 25, February 1, 8, 15,  
Mondays 2:30 – 3:30 on March 1, 8, 15.

## **Class Changes and Cancellations**

Class changes and cancellations will be communicated in class and/or by e-mail. Reception will also be informed so that a notice can be placed on the classroom door.

## **Students with Special Needs/Requests for Accommodation**

Professor Pothier is the faculty advisor to students with disabilities. Students wishing to discuss in-class accommodation or in-class study assistance needs should see Professor Pothier.

Students seeking special accommodation with regard to any aspect of course evaluation (including exam deferrals and extensions to deadlines) must make an application to the Studies Committee. Academic regulations require such requests to be made as soon as possible and, in any event, no later than the date on which the exam is to be written or the paper or other assignment is to be submitted. Students should contact Associate Dean Michael Deturbide or Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hughes for more information about requests for accommodation and about the Studies Committee process.

## **Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Advisory in relation to Academic Continuity**

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on student's academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Adjustments to course assignments;
- Changes to the dates of exams;
- Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1 influenza virus;
- Adjustments to work terms;
- Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- Adjustments to attendance policies.

Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

## Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
January 4 Thompson	Intro, Legal Regulation	Pages i-ii, I-1-20
January 7 Thompson	Constitutional Issues Marriage	Pages II-1-19; III-1-11; Supp. pages 1-19
January 11 Chewter	Separation	Pages III-11-18, IV-1-3; IV-11-31; Supp. pages 25- 33
January 14 Chewter	Divorce	Pages V-1 – V-27; Supp. pages 44-61; 81-93; 105- 115
January 18 Chewter	Domestic Violence	Pages IV-3-11; handout Supp. pages 20-24
January 21 Chewter	Custody I - Overview	Pages VI-1-52 Supp. pages 34-43
January 25 Chewter	Custody II – Mobility	Pages VI-52-92 Supp. pages 116-117
January 28 Chewter	Access I	Pages VI-92-123
February 1 Chewter	Access II: Custody and Access Review and Hypos	No additional readings
February 4 Chewter	Division of Property I – Overview	Pages VII-1-35; Supp. pages 102-104; 118-124
February 8 Chewter	Division of Property II - Pensions	Pages VII-35-55; Supp. pages 125-139
February 11 Chewter	Division of Property III – Particular Assets, Unequal Division of Property	Pages VII-55-84
February 15 Chewter	Division of Property IV - Common Law Spouses	Pages VII-84-109
February 18 Chewter	Child Support I - Overview	Pages VIII-1-17; Supp. pages 43; 61-76; 94-102
February 22	Reading Week	No class
February 25	Reading Week	No class
March 1 Chewter	Child Support II – Sections 7-10: Special Expenses, Split Custody, Shared Custody, Undue Hardship	Pages VIII-18-46; Supp. pages 77-80
March 4 Chewter	Child Support III – High Income Parents, Support for Adult Children, Step-parent Support Obligations	Pages VIII-47-84
March 8 Chewter	Child Support IV – Contracting Out, Variation, Retroactive Support	Pages VIII-84-108; Supp. pages 177-181
March 11 Chewter	Spousal Support I – Overview	Pages IX-1-50
March 15 Thompson	Spousal Support II – The Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines	Pages IX-51-70
March 18 Chewter	Spousal Support III – Special Topics	Pages IX-70-90
March 22 Thompson	ADR, Tax and Income Assistance Issues	Handouts, Pages X-1-19
March 25 Thompson	Third Parties, Race and Culture, Adoption	Pages XI-1-38; Supp. pages 160-167 (ss.67-87)
March 29 Thompson	Child Protection I	Pages XII-1-35; Supp; pages 140-160; 167-176
April 1 Thompson	Child Protection II	Pages XII-36-70
April 6 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Thompson	Review Class Room 104	
April 8 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>Room 105</b>	

