

## Class activities\*

Class 1 January 8

### Introduction

Classes 2 & 3 January 15 & 22: Marriage and Divorce

# Merry ex-mas: Man infuriates ex-partners by putting them all into a group chat

**A YOUNG Lothario has brazenly taken on all of his former flames at once, wishing them a “Merry Ex-mas” in a group chat. And he got what he wanted.**

A YOUNG Lothario has brazenly taken on all of his exes on in one go by wishing them a “Merry Ex-mas” in a group chat.

The British man, Tom, sent the women the message: “Merry Christmas girls I just thought you might want to share some memories of me with each other as am lonely this year and miss the lot of ya [sic].”

Three of the women, Bella, Lisa and Steph were completely unimpressed by Tom’s Whatsapp exchange.

Infuriated ex Bella doesn’t take any prisoners with her blunt response: “F\*\*k off Tom, seriously. You really are a f\*\*\*ing disgusting p\*\*\*\*”.



One of the women, Lisa, completely rises above the awkward situation, leaving the conversation without even giving Tom the benefit of a comment.

Controversially, after Lisa leaves the chat, Bella turns on one of the other girls in the group.

She adds: “Do you really think this is funny? Putting me in a group with a girl I know you f\*\*\*ing slept with while we were together?!”



This pushes ex-girlfriend Steph to defend herself by commenting: “OK woah pet think what you want but Tom said you weren’t together after the holiday coz you f\*\*\*\*\* it.”

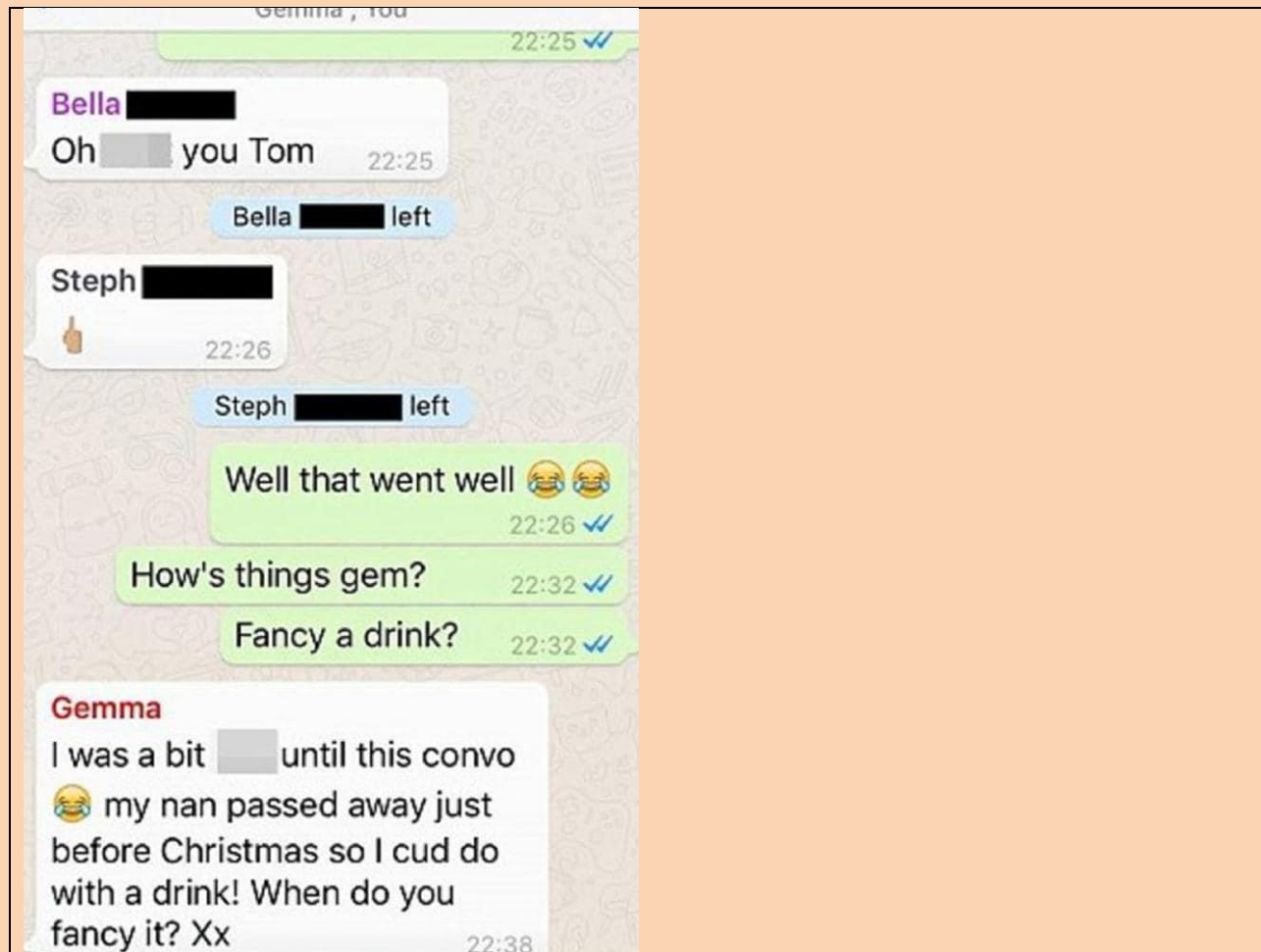
Exasperated Bella responds: “We were together ‘pet’ and Tom just lied to you like he does to everyone. He’s a f\*\*\*\*\* pig.”

The alleged love-rat counters the accusations by insisting that the pair got together after he sent a breakup message.



In her most explosive message yet, livid Bella responds all in caps: “ON FACEBOOK WHICH YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I NEVER F\*\*\*\*\* CHECK YOU P\*\*\*\*.”

The only ex that seems unfazed by Tom’s actions is Gemma, who tells Bella to “find (her) chill”.



Happy ending. Source: *The Sun*

After both Bella and Steph leave the chat in fury, Tom is finally left alone with his ex-childhood sweetheart Gemma.

The cheeky Lothario asks her: “How’s things gem? Fancy a drink?”

Luckily, Gemma seems to have found the confrontation of the exes hilarious, as she responds: “I was a bit s\*\*\* until this convo — my nan passed away just before Christmas so I could do with a drink! When do you fancy it? Xx”.

## Family

**Prepare a short presentation of one of the following types of marriage.**

Types of family structures

- Nuclear (two parents and children)
  - Traditional: Husband is the sole income-earner and the wife's main role is domestic.
  - Modern: Dual-earners.
- Binuclear (children living with one parent part of the time and with the other part of the time).
- Single-parent family.
- Extended family (more than 2 adults related by blood or marriage living together).
- Childless family
- Grandparent family (grandparents raise their grandchildren in the absence of the parents).
- Blended family

Types of families according to mobility:

- Immigrant
  - Parents immigrated as adults
- Migrant
  - The family moves around regularly to places where there is employment
- Conditionally separated families
  - One parent is separated from the rest of the family due to employment.
- Transnational
  - The family moves back and forth their home country and the new country.

- 1) Choose one of the types of family structures and prepare a presentation.
- 2) Explain the selected type.
- 3) Find an example from real life and discuss it.
- 4) Find an example from popular culture and show a clip to the class that exemplifies the characteristics of that the selected type.
- 5) Find a case or news article dealing with the selected type of family and discuss it.

### **Scenarios**

1. Homer and Marge married 5 years ago. Although they did not get along well, neither cheated on the other and neither of them was ever physically or emotionally abusive. Over a year ago, they agreed to split up. But since they could not afford to rent another house, they agreed that Marge would sleep in the bedroom and that Homer would sleep on the couch. Each carries on with their everyday life. They don't do anything together, except for an occasional meal once or twice a month. They have separate bank accounts. And they pay the bills 50/50. Can they apply for divorce?
2. Homer and Marge have been married for less than a year. Marge suspects that Homer is cheating on her. Homer wakes up at night to text and talk on the phone. He is overprotective of his phone and does not let Marge answer it. Homer comes back from work very late almost every day. He usually smells of alcohol and woman's perfume. Sometimes, Homer comes home wearing a different set of clothes than the one he wore in the morning when he left for work. Last week, Homer told Marge that he was going to play pool with Fat Tony. Marge called Fat Tony to ask if Homer was with him. Fat Tony told Marge that he had not seen Homer for months. Marge wants to file for divorce on grounds of adultery. Can her application for divorce be successful? Can she apply for divorce on other grounds? Why or why not?
3. Homer and Marge had been married for 10 years. Homer worked on a nuclear plant. And Marge stayed at home, doing house work and raising their three children. They both agreed to divorce. Homer earns a net salary of \$ 48,000 a year. He pays \$ 1500 in child support (\$500 per child until each reaches 18). Marge sues Homer for spousal support. She claims \$ 1000 a month for life. Marge argues that she cannot get a meaningful job. Because she has custody of their children, she cannot go back to school, either. She says that by the time their baby is 18, she will be too old to go to school and that even if she does she will be too old to compete with young graduates once she finishes school. Is she entitled to get spousal support? What would be your decision?
4. Fred and Wilma married as soon as they finish their BA in Philosophy. They both wanted to go to graduate school. They agreed that Fred would go to Law School and that Wilma would work and support her husband. Once he finished Law School, it would be her turn to do a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Fred would support her. After Fred finished Law School, they divorced. Wilma wants Fred to pay spousal support until she finishes her Ph.D.,

which she estimates will take her 7 years (2 years to do an M.A. and 5 years to complete her Ph.D., including her thesis). Fred wants to pay only for 3 years. He argues that she supported him during 3 years only. You are the judge. What would be your decision about spousal support?

5. Fred and Wilma had been married for 4 years when they decided to get a divorce. Fred had always worked to provide financial support for the family. Wilma has a \$2 million savings account that she had inherited from her parents. She had never touched this money during the course of the marriage. Wilma claims \$ 500 in spousal support from Fred until she goes back to school and finishes her BA program, which she quit when they got married. You are the judge. What would be your decision about spousal support?
6. Fred and Wilma filed for divorce. They have no children. They don't agree on how to divide their property. They have a house worth \$100,000. They also own a car worth \$ 5,000, and electronics and furniture worth 20,000. Fred has a Rolex watch which his father gave to him before he married Wilma. How would you divide the property?
7. Fred and Wilma filed for divorce. They have one child aged 3. They don't agree on how to divide their property. They lived in Fred's house which he had bought before they got married. The house is worth \$200,000. They also have \$ 100,000 in savings at Bedrock National Bank. Wilma never worked. The savings all came from Fred's salary. How would you divide the property?
8. Fred and Wilma filed for divorce. They have no children. They don't agree on how to divide their property. Fred is a famous movie star. He made \$ 1,000,000 a year. Wilma stayed at home. But she did not have to do any house work, as the couple had several employees (maid, housekeeper, gardener, cook, etc.). Their assets total \$ 5,000,000. How would you split their assets? Also, Wilma claims \$ 100,000 a year in spousal support for life. She argues that Fred had asked her not to go to school because he did not want journalists and photographers to report on his wife's studies and grades. As a result, Wilma has no education and no work experience.
9. Fred and Wilma had been married for 4 years. They have a 3-year old child. They own a house worth \$50,000 and have other assets worth \$ 100,000. Fred had an extramarital affair. Wilma filed for divorce on the grounds of adultery. She wants to have sole custody of the child and wants to keep all the assets, including the house.

10. Fred and Wilma filed for divorce. They have a 3-year old child. Wilma has sole custody of the child. They don't agree on how to divide their property. They have a house worth \$100,000. They also have \$ 200,000 in debt which is all in Fred's name. This debt was incurred entirely during the marriage and for expenses related to the marriage. How can they divide their property? What about debt?

### **Microteaching**



- Teach a class about legal aspects of marriage in Canada. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about grounds for divorce in Canada. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about legal aspects of spousal support in Ontario. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about legal aspects of division of property in Ontario. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about legal aspects of divorce in a US state. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about legal aspects of divorce in a European country. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about international divorce in Haiti.
- Teach a class about legal aspects of marriage and dissolution of marriage in Saudi Arabia. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about divorce in Argentina. Include a class activity.
- Teach a class about divorce in Israel. Include a class activity.

**Read the following article and discuss it**

# Women in the 16th century sued their husbands for erectile dysfunction

November 9, 2018 By Melissa Sartore

Sex, marriage, and impotence are the sorts of private matters not usually heard in public discourse. But in the 14th century, erectile dysfunction was under increased scrutiny in Europe. In [pre-modern France](#), a woman could bring her husband to public trial for an annulment on the grounds that he was impotent. Impotence as a basis for divorce wasn't unique to France, similar accusations were made in medieval Spain and England as well.

The methods by which men had to prove their virility reached increasingly invasive and public levels during the Early Modern period with intricate medical exams, virginity tests, and even Trial by Congress – a public display of one's sexual ability. This insane method of determining whether a man was up for his marital duty (sorry, the puns write themselves) lasted less than a century. However, in a pre-reality TV world, the public followed these erectile trials closely.

Enlightenment thinkers called it an example of the over-reaching [authority](#) of the Church, while the general public just liked to read about the drama in published accounts. Back then, a man's erection was his only weapon in a challenge to his manhood. Without a doubt, pre-revolutionary impotence trials brought what we now consider to be private matters into very public places – literally.

## The Church Had A Right To Be In Your Bedroom

From a moral perspective, Catholics and Protestants, among others, argued back then that marriage was the only appropriate outlet for the erotic urges humans [suffer](#) (yes, suffer). Impotence, in this context, was a criminal offense. A fraudulent crime against one party in a marriage.

Marriage didn't explicitly become a sacrament of the Catholic Church until the Council of Trent in the 16th century, but theologians and clergymen were [active in matrimony](#) through late antiquity and the Middle Ages. Christians who took part in marriage in its sacramental form understood that it was an agreement entered into with provisions. Marriage was between two baptized Christians, it was monogamous, it was for procreation purposes, and it was indissoluble. Protestant views on [marriage](#) were similar to Catholics in that it was a necessary institution.

Whether Catholic or Protestant, all religious officials agreed impotence was a valid reason to end a marriage and was definitely a matter of Church business.

## **Divorce Was Rare So Impotence Was A Woman's Best Chance To Get Out**

When it came to marriage during the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, the Catholic Church didn't allow for many exit routes. The basic goals of [marriage](#) were to procreate and provide the only acceptable outlet for sexual urges. Therefore if a man couldn't hold up his side of the bargain, an annulment was allowed.

It wasn't as easy as that, however. If a woman alleged impotence, there was a [three-year window](#) before the annulment was granted. In case the condition corrected itself. Additionally, not all [annulments](#) allowed those involved to remarry. This depended upon what was known about when and how the problem started.

Protestant Reformers believed that impotence was a valid reason for [divorce](#), but also that remarriage was a must. For Protestants, women could only bring impotence to court after enough time had been given to procreate – anywhere from one to three years – and divorce was granted after a series of oaths or medical examinations.

### **A Wife Had To Prove She Wasn't To Blame**

Unsurprisingly, a woman still had to prove she wasn't the cause of a couple's sexual woes. Her easiest way out of the marriage was to claim the marriage was never consummated. In this scenario she then had to prove she was still a virgin.

One test to prove this was to drink a [diuretic](#). Since the urinary and reproductive systems were believed to be the same, if she urinated immediately, her hymen had been corrupted. An un-penetrated woman would be unaffected (or really good at holding her bladder). She was often subjected to a [physical](#) inspection also.

A woman's second best route to prove she was blameless was to claim her husband came with a faulty tool kit. This meant her husband was subjected to physical scrutiny. In [1370](#), for example, a certain John, was examined and found to have a "member...like an empty intestine of mottled skin... [with no] flesh in it, nor veins in the skin, and the middle of its front...totally black...[that] neither expanded nor grew..."

### **The Test To Verify Virginity Could, In Fact, De-Flower A Woman**

The physical examination that a woman underwent to prove her virginity was, naturally, invasive. She was given a bath, in case she was using something to fake virginity, and then put on a bed in front of midwives and doctors. Her legs were spread and a doctor used a "[mirror of the womb](#)" or a mock-penis to explore the woman's genitals.

It was possible to break a woman's hymen this way but was still used as a method to determine virginity nonetheless. If a woman was said to not be a virgin, she could claim her husband had violated her with his fingers or had tried [unsuccessful](#) sex thus

breaking her hymen.

### **A Man's Package Was Under Severe Scrutiny**

A man with a penile malformation was a relatively straightforward case in these affairs. Similarly, cases of men with too little going on downstairs to allow for sex were quickly found lacking and a divorce was granted. Such was the case of [Nicholas Cantilupe](#) whose wife Katherine claimed that "that she could not stroke nor find anything there and that the place in which Nicholas' genitals ought be is as flat as the hand of a man."

Other cases weren't so clear cut. In the late 16th century, [Magdeleine de Chastre](#) claimed that her husband, the Baron d'Argenton, had no testicles and was thusly impotent. The two had consummated their marriage, proven by bloody sheets found after their wedding night, but the wife took her case to court anyway. The Baron's lawyer, [Sebastien Roulliard](#), argued that denying the existence of hidden testicles was similar to denying the existence of the heart, lungs, or other non-visible organs. Nor, he argued, were they necessary for an erection.

All manner of [impotence](#) was brought before the courts. Accidental, temporary, and intermittent impotence all muddied the waters, so to speak. An increase in medical knowledge [complicated](#) impotence divorce later in the 18th and 19th centuries.

### **Men Had To Give Quite The, Ahem, Public Performance**



Doctors in [Spain](#) devised their own methods of testing a man's penis in the fourteenth century: A hot and cold water test. A man's penis was put into cold water, then hot, and then observed for dilation and blood-flow. If this proved inconclusive a male surgeon would then attempt to stimulate the man to erection.

In Naples, [matrone](#) (female sex experts) were used. This woman would accompany a couple, rub ointments on them, encourage them to relax, give them aphrodisiacs, and watch to see what would happen. She'd then report back to the court. In France, in a [Trial by Congress](#), men were expected to get an erection in front of the Court, usually by mounting his wife and copulating on demand.

Church officials and doctors did seem to realize that the [inability](#) to perform in front of an audience was possible but, generally speaking, a man could either get it up or he couldn't.

### **Impotence Was An All-Out Epidemic In 16th Century France**

Based on the number of impotence cases in France by the 16th century one would assume there was something in the water. Of course, as one of the few ways to

dissolve a marriage, it was an appealing process for a woman in a loveless marriage. Upper and middle class women were the most common **litigants** because they could afford to bring the cases to court.

Several factors contributed to the increased number of and interest in impotence trials. As more and more cases of impotence came to court, **treatises** and books about law and marriage alike proliferated. **Contemporaries** attributed the rise in trials to overall moral corruption, as well as the growing audacity and overt sexuality of women, with as many as ten thousand trials held during the 17th century.

### **There Were Three Possible Results From An Impotence Trial**

If a man and woman in an impotence trial abided by their three-year trial period, endured the physical exams, and provided all the necessary info a court needed, there were three possible **outcomes**. If impotence was not proven, the parties were “condemned to live as man and wife.” If the impotence was proven, the marriage could be annulled – with provisions that one or both could remarry. Last, in rare cases, the couple was asked to give it another three-year trial period and see if things worked themselves out.

## **Class 4 January 29**

### **Bigamy, Polygamy, and Adultery**

#### **Discussion questions**



### **Bigamy and Polygamy**

- 1) What are some of the reasons for criminalizing bigamy and polygamy?
- 2) Do you agree with criminalizing bigamy in our present society? Why or why not?

- 3) Who practices polygamy? Why?
- 4) BC Chief Justice held that “women in polygamous relationships are at an elevated risk of physical and psychological harm. They face higher rates of domestic violence and abuse, including sexual abuse.” Are these valid reasons to criminalize polygamy?
- 5) Why is polygamy a crime when three consenting adults agree to live together in a conjugal union? What are the advantages, if any, of polygamy?
- 6) Do you agree with the criminalization of polygamy? Why or why not?
- 7) What Charter rights, if any, may be infringed by the criminalization of polygamy and bigamy?

### **Bigamy**

Camila was born in Mexico but lives in New York. Fabio lives in the Sault and flies to New York very often to see her. His wife, Marissa, doesn't know anything about Camila. Marissa thinks that Fabio goes to New York for work. Camila doesn't know Fabio is married. Fabio flew to New York last week to spend a few days with Camila. As soon as he arrived, Camila told him that she wanted to marry him. She said: “We've been together for over 2 years. Let's get married at the base of the Statue of Liberty today, or else ...”. Fabio wasn't very sure. But he didn't want to pass up the chance to spend the weekend with Camila. So, he reluctantly agreed. And they got married. They had a great weekend. When Fabio came back to the Sault, Camila posted the wedding pictures on Facebook. Marissa found out about Camila and the wedding. She was furious and asked Fabio to leave. Fabio soon received a summons ordering him to appear before the Sault Ste. Marie court for the crime of bigamy.

### **Prosecution**

Marissa reported Fabio's actions before the police and the prosecution. She said “We have been married for over 30 years. I am not a lawyer, but I think that this is bigamy. This must be a crime. I want you to beat the crap out of him in court for marrying that mother\*\*\*ker.”

- What crime, if any, did Fabio commit?
- Analyze section 290 of the Canadian Criminal Code.

- Find and analyze Canadian judicial decisions on bigamy.
- Find and analyze three legal articles discussing the crime of bigamy in Canada.
- Write a short report with all this information. Include the findings from the cases and articles. Incorporate them in your memo. Discuss the crime of bigamy in Canada and whether Fabio has committed this crime or any other crime.
- Prepare the opening arguments for the trial. You may not read from any notes when delivering the opening argument.

### **Defence**

- Fabio hired your firm, a prestigious SSM Law Firm to handle his Criminal Law defence.
- What crime, if any, did Fabio commit? What, if any, are possible defences?
- Analyze section 290 of the Canadian Criminal Code.
- Find and analyze Canadian judicial decisions on bigamy.
- Find and analyze three legal articles discussing the crime of bigamy in Canada.
- Write a short report with all this information. Include the findings from the cases and articles. Incorporate them in your memo. Discuss the crime of bigamy in Canada and whether Fabio has committed this crime or any other crime.
- Prepare the opening arguments for the trial. You may not read from any notes when delivering the opening argument.

### **New York**

- You are the members of a very prestigious law firm in New York. You have been consulted to give expert testimony about New York law on bigamy and other crimes which Fabio may have committed.
- What crimes, if any, did Fabio commit in New York?
- Analyze article 255 of the New York Penal Code.

- Find and analyze legal articles and web sites discussing the crime of bigamy and other related crimes in New York.
- Write a short report with all this information.
- Prepare your expert witness testimony for the trial in Canada. Expert witnesses may prepare slides with the information. But they need to testify without reading.

### **Comparative Criminal Law**

- You are the members of a very prestigious international law firm. Fabio has hired you to help him with his case.
- First, he wants you to find countries where bigamy is not criminalized.
- Second, since public opinion influences the outcome of most trials, Fabio would like you to prepare a survey to find out what people think of the criminalization of bigamy in Canada. Go out and interview ten people (other students, faculty, staff, etc.). Include the results in your report.
- Write a short report with all this information.
- Prepare your expert witness testimony for the trial in Canada. Expert witnesses may prepare slides with the information. But they need to testify without reading.

### **International Law Firm**

- You are members of a very prestigious international law firm. Fabio has hired you to help him with his case.
- First, he wants you to find countries where bigamy is not criminalized.
- Second, since public opinion influences the outcome of most trials, Fabio would like you to prepare a survey to find out what people think of the criminalization of bigamy in Canada. Interview ten people (other students, faculty, staff, etc.). Include the results in your report.

- Write a short report with all this information.
- Prepare your expert witness testimony for the trial in Canada. Expert witnesses may prepare slides with the information. But they need to testify without reading.

## Adultery



1. What is adultery?
2. What are some of the causes of adultery? Why do some people cheat on their significant others? What are some of the consequences of adultery?
3. Do men cheat more than women? Why or why not?
4. What are some signs of a cheating spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend?
5. Is sleeping with someone other than your girlfriend/ boyfriend as serious as cheating on a spouse? Should cheating on a girlfriend/boyfriend be legally regulated? What do you consider cheating in a dating relationship?
6. Do you agree with the legal treatment of adultery in Canada? Do you think it should be criminalized?
7. What messages do we get from society/media about adultery?
8. Do social media encourage cheating/adultery? Do social media sites make cheating easier? If so, how?
9. AshleyMadison.com, is a Canadian website which describes itself as the market leader in the infidelity business. Its motto



is: “Life is short. Have an affair.” What do you think of this site? Is it legal in Canada? If so, should it be prohibited?

10. Foreign organizations, such as solo enterprises or small companies in Russia and Japan offer grooms and brides for sale. Is it morally wrong to buy a marriage partner from these organizations, assuming that the transaction is voluntary and the spouse to be agrees to marry the client? Should this be illegal? Why or why not?
11. Select a country other than Canada and the United States. Do an online search on the legal and social treatment of adultery in that country.
12. Analyze the video just shown in class from a legal perspective. Are there grounds for divorce? Why or why not? Is there polygamy (defined as any kind of conjugal union with more than one person at the same time, whether or not it is by law recognized as a binding form of marriage, conjugal union).

#### **Class 5 February 5: Domestic violence**



- What is the main thesis of the film?
- What are the three types of abuse against women mentioned in the film? Are there other types of abuse against women?
- Why does abuse against women happen? Why do some men abuse their wives/girlfriends/partners? Is it prevalent in Sault Ste. Marie?
- Is there female violence against males?
- What are some of the signs of an abusive relationship?

- Why is it difficult for some women to leave their abusive husbands? Why do some abused women believe the abuse is their fault? Why do some victims of –sexual- abuse feel ashamed?
- What can be done to stop violence against women?
- Look for news articles on spousal/partner rape from prestigious newspapers or news organizations such as The Globe and Mail, The National Post, The New York Times, and BBC. How do the media cover spousal/partner rape?
- What do you think of the legal treatment of violence against women? Should there be a specific crime? If so, how could it be defined? What changes, if any, would you make to Canadian Criminal Law to better deal with abuse and violence against women?
- What is dual charging? What happens in sexual assault cases?
- What do you think of the no-drop policy? What are the implications of this policy?

**Read the following article and discuss the following questions**

## **‘I had no job, no savings. I knew he’d destroy me’ – the women fighting against economic abuse**

Controlling someone’s access to money, monitoring their spending and running up debts in their name could soon become illegal. But will this help victims?

[Anna Moore](#)

Tue 5 Feb 2019 11.30 GMT

Shares  
**1727**



Rebecca Beattie: 'He gets to move on and I'm caught in this invisible chain dragging me down.'  
Photograph: Christopher Thomond/The Guardian

When Rebecca Beattie went to her bank to query some transactions, she did not expect to be told she was eligible for a £6,000 loan. She muttered that she wasn't too sure, but her partner shot her a look and asked: "Why not?" The bank clerk noted the tension, suggested the couple take a moment alone and excused herself.

"We were barely surviving, but he talked me into it," says Beattie, now 31, from York. "You're in this dangerous relationship, this constant state of trying to manage, to not make him mad." So she signed up for a personal loan in her name. When the couple got back to their car (also registered in Beattie's name), it had a parking ticket. "He ripped it up and said: 'We don't need to worry about that now, we're loaded!'"

Beattie was 22 at the time. [She had never heard of "economic abuse"](#), nor even "domestic abuse", although she was certainly living with it. She had met her partner, her first boyfriend, while still at college and within months had become pregnant. He was jealous, controlling, then violent and when she finally managed to end the relationship at the age of 24, he beat her so badly, she required reconstructive surgery.

But this is not what Beattie wants to talk about. During their five years together, she struggled to provide the basics for her son and herself with child benefits and minimal support from her partner, who owned a bike shop. He was secretive with money, he gambled, he loaned cash to his friends. He helped himself to her bank card to withdraw money and made her sign up for store cards. He frittered away that £6,000 loan in months. "It went so fast," she says. "The only thing I got to show for it was our son's first bed."

When she was finally free, out of hospital and rebuilding her life, those debts caught up with her. "I'd got a housing transfer," she says, "but I had nothing – no furniture, sheets for curtains – and the demands started coming. The amount had grown to £20,000, letter after letter threatening court action. I'd ring around and try to explain the situation, but I'm still paying to this day. I'll be paying for the next 16 years."

This – along with her ex's constant failure to pay regular maintenance for their 10-year-old son – has been her hardest battle. "The economic consequences are with me every single day, a cloud hanging over me," says Beattie, who has started a business dedicated

to raising awareness of domestic abuse. “He gets to move on and I’m caught in this invisible chain pulling me back and dragging me down.”

The inclusion of “economic abuse” [in the draft domestic abuse bill](#), which was published in January, is an acknowledgment, finally, of something that has, say campaigners, been hidden in plain sight. The bill’s definition of economic abuse isn’t limited to controlling someone’s access to money, but also the things money can buy: a car, a phone, petrol, food, heating. It might mean tightly monitoring someone’s spending, running up debts in their name, emptying their account or sabotaging their working life. In one case, cited by the then home secretary Amber Rudd when she appeared on *The One Show*, it was identified by police on a call out when they saw a Post-it note on the fridge. The note read: “Ask the master before helping yourself.”

Dr Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, the founder of the charity Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), was instrumental in getting a definition of economic abuse included, but she says it doesn’t go far enough. “The bill doesn’t criminalise economic abuse in and of itself, which is what we wanted,” she says. “They’re hoping to capture it under the offence of coercive control. But having a statutory definition is a good first step. It helps survivors and police to recognise it, and makes it easier for banks to understand.” The bill has also committed funds for the training of frontline workers and the support of victims, much of which will be administered through SEA.

It was while working in policy for a domestic abuse charity that Sharp-Jeffs found her focus drawn to this issue. “Speaking to survivors, economic abuse just threaded through everything,” she says. “It may have controlled someone’s everyday life, like where she was able to go or what she could eat. It fed into emotional abuse, as it was degrading, infantilising, reinforcing the message of worthlessness. It put people in physical danger as they didn’t have the resources to leave. And it could very seriously impact their ability to rebuild life post-separation.”

Although there are no national statistics, studies of abusive relationships suggest economic abuse is present in up to 99% of them, and often the first sign of coercive control. The largest study was carried out by [Sharp-Jeffs with the Co-operative Bank](#). It found that one in five people in the general population have experienced economic abuse, 60% of them women. The same study suggested women experience it for longer, with nearly 80% of those reporting abuse saying it lasted more than five years, compared with 23% of the men. There was also a marked difference in what was interpreted as abuse. “Women tended to say their partners denied them money for food, rent or electricity,” says Sharp-Jeffs. “Men were more likely to say they’d been denied money for beer or hobbies.”

Perhaps this highlights why the issue has stayed beneath the radar, far behind physical violence and emotional abuse when it comes to public awareness. The way couples arrange finances and share resources, what’s fair or normal, is a private, slippery and subjective. “It also plays perfectly into gender norms,” says Sharp-Jeffs. “There’s still a perception that women aren’t so good with money. It’s very easy for men to take control under the guise of: ‘I’ll look after you.’” (Perhaps this also explains why that bank clerk

thought it appropriate to step back while Beattie's partner talked her into taking a loan.)

Sarah Pennells, a personal finance journalist and the creator of money website [savvywoman.co.uk](http://savvywoman.co.uk), agrees. "It's a lazy stereotype but it's still often expected that the men will take care of the 'important stuff', like mortgages and pensions, which is where the real money is," she says.

"I receive more emails than I'd like from women who've found that taking maternity leave or stopping work to raise children has been a trigger for change. Slowly, shared finances became 'his money' and the women were edged out of financial decisions. They feel uncomfortable about it, but aren't sure if it was normal because money isn't something we talk about. And once the pattern is set, it becomes very hard to unpick."

Susan Crick (not her real name), who is in her 60s, owned her own flat and had a company car when she met her husband more than 30 years ago. He was just starting his professional career when they bought their first house, and Crick paid for the renovation and paid off his overdraft. She left her job when her children were born – three within four years – and that was when her husband took over the finances.

"Looking back, I was naive," she says. "But my parents had very traditional roles. My mum was very well educated, but never worked because my dad didn't allow it." Crick's husband opened a joint account for them, she closed her personal account and he retained full control of spending.

"I couldn't write a cheque unless he gave permission. Everything had to be under his control," she says. "If I was buying clothes, he came and made the decisions. I once bought a jacket on my own and he was so angry – 'It's not your money!' – I never did it again. The holidays, the food I served, the cars we drove – it was up to him." Her husband was also emotionally abusive, critical, thought nothing of calling her a "pig" or an "idiot" in company, and mocked her ideas for new careers.

"When I left him after more than 10 years, I was so humiliated, my self-esteem was rock bottom," she says. "I had no job, no savings. He had become successful and very well-connected and I knew he'd destroy me."

Economic abuse can continue years after a relationship has ended. "My ex used it as a form of punishment," says Crick. "He contested every single aspect of the separation for years to come – the divorce, contact, holidays, the children's school, my attempts to move out of London. He went to court over everything and the cost was catastrophic. I had to increase my mortgage three times and ended up on a debt plan. At times, I thought of suicide. I tell girls now to hold on to their jobs and have their own money. It's power."

Sharp-Jeffs agrees education is key. "Young people should learn about money as well as sex and relationships," she says. "If you're encouraged to think about it from a young age – how you manage it, the choices it brings – you're more likely to know what's right

or wrong in the future.”

Opening up about our financial lives would also help. Abuse thrives on secrecy and isolation. Otegha Uwagba, [founder of the network Women Who](#) and author of the bestseller *Little Black Book*, is writing a book called *We Need to Talk About Money*. “Money dominates every aspect of our lives – and the silence around it, that lack of transparency, makes women vulnerable in the workplace and in the home,” she says.

There have been progress. In October, 11 banks [signed up to the Financial Abuse Code of Practice](#), which includes the obligation to train staff to recognise it and to help victims regain control of their finances. And now the domestic abuse bill has acknowledged the issue, too.

But that’s just a start, says Sharp-Jeffs. “I’d like it to be an offence in and of itself, not slipped into the coercive control legislation where it gets lost,” she says. “It’s so complex, so far reaching, we need to name it and separate it out to have the correct support. I don’t think that’s overly ambitious if we keep up the pressure.”

1. What is non-physical abuse?
2. What is economic abuse?
3. What steps would members of a couple have to take in order to defend themselves from an accusation of economic abuse?
4. What are the everyday implications of criminalizing economic abuse?
5. Read the [UK bill](#) on domestic abuse and discuss it.

## **Class 6 February 12:**

### **Read the following article and discuss these questions**

1. What is a marriage proposal? What are the legal implications of a marriage proposal in Canada today? What about the historical legal consequences?
2. Is the marriage proposal common in other countries? Do an online search and discuss traditions and legal consequences.
3. Why hasn’t the marriage proposal been eliminated as a tradition in Canada and the United States even when most traditional rituals have disappeared with the feminist movement?
4. What are the legal implications of a broken engagement in Canada today? What about the historical legal consequences?

5. Who keeps the engagement ring in case of a broken engagement? Discuss *Okhai v. Sharify*, 2004 CanLII (ON SC)
6. What is the dowry? How did it work? Is it still used in other countries?
7. What is an arranged marriage? What is your opinion about arranged marriages? Can they work?

## Marriage Proposals Are Stupid

This is no way for two grown humans to make a major life decision.

**CAROLINE KITCHENER**

MAR 23, 2018



GEORGE MARKS/GETTY

The marriage proposal is one of the most ritualized moments in modern American life. Growing up, many girls are instilled with a specific idea of how it should go: He'll take us somewhere romantic—we'll have no idea what's happening—he'll get down on one knee—

we'll start crying—he'll pop the question—we'll immediately say yes. It should be magical.

But for a lot of heterosexual couples, the proposal—as movies portray it, as many millennial women have internalized it—doesn't reflect the kind of modern, egalitarian relationships many women want today. Whom to marry is among the most important decisions most people will ever make in their lives, and yet it's not a choice made in the course of a conversation—the normal way two grown humans make big life decisions. Instead, it has to be a show, with a prefixed grand finale: “yes.”

Since the second wave of the feminist movement crested in the 1970s, almost every antiquated gender tradition in the United States has been seriously challenged. But not the proposal. “It's been extremely resistant to change,” said Stephanie Coontz, a professor of marriage and family history at Evergreen State College. In the vast majority of proposals between heterosexual couples, it's still the man who asks the question.\* “He makes this over-the-top attempt to show the woman that, even if we play things equally from here on out, in this, we will be traditional,” Coontz adds. There is no time to pause, discuss, call friends for their advice, and think it over. You just have to know. In some ways, proposals do seem to be changing, but in the opposite direction. They're becoming less egalitarian: less conversation-like and more elaborate and fantastical. Ellen Lamont, assistant professor of sociology at Appalachian State University, interviewed 105 people about their proposals. “The women needed a story to tell their friends,” Lamont said. “There was more interest in the proposal being a public spectacle. If it was more of a conversation, it didn't have the same impact.”

She attributes this to social media. Now, when a couple gets engaged, the Facebook or Instagram post is an essential part of the process. “Women want that perfect picture—him down on one knee; her, hand on cheek, surprised.” Lamont says that most of the men in her study, on the other hand, professed to not caring about the details. “They were like, ‘Whatever, I was going to propose anyway. If this is what makes her happy, I'm going to do it.’” For gay couples, these norms—

and the larger, gendered roles partners are expected to enact in their relationships—are in flux.

This particular conception of a proposal is solidified by American pop culture. There are hundreds of memorable proposal scenes in modern TV and movies, most of which follow a familiar script. Lamont says the opening scene of *Sweet Home Alabama* best encapsulates the “quintessential proposal:” Reese Witherspoon walks into Tiffany & Co., blindfolded—her boyfriend uncovers her eyes, reveals the dozens of jewelers standing at attention, and tells her to “pick one.” “Oh my god,” she says, mouth wide open, stunned. “Oh my god.”

When I asked why the proposal has been so slow to modernize, Lamont credited a phenomenon she calls “symbolic gendering.” “Now that we expect women to be equal to men, women are looking for ways to distinguish gender in their lives.” Within heterosexual romantic relationships, Lamont says, there is still a strong sense that women and men want different things and, by extension, should behave in different ways. As more women assume traditionally male roles at work, the traits that distinguish men and women in relationships become harder to see. “A symbolic act, like a proposal, is a way to reenact those differences.”

Of course, many couples perform this particular ritual because it’s fun and romantic. When a man plans an elaborate scheme to ask his girlfriend to marry him—when he builds a telescope, or rents out a stadium, or presents his partner with a seventeen-carat diamond hidden inside a Ring Pop—a person is going to feel special. While many of the men in Lamont’s study professed indifference to elaborate proposals, there’s reason to think they appeal to men, too. Several recent studies show that men, particularly young men, feel intense pressure to hide how they’re feeling. According to Judy Chu, a sociologist at Stanford who studies gender, young men today are so fixated on “being a man” that they “end up missing...what they each really want, which is just that closeness.” A proposal is an occasion when it’s socially acceptable, even encouraged, for men to be emotional—to lay it all on the line, and show their partner how much she means to them.

But responsible decisions aren't made in the moment. They're the product of dialogue and careful, measured consideration. Even if a couple is already living together, marriage is a big step. There are important questions to ask: How will finances work? Would you move across the country for a job? Will we have children, and if we do, will you change the diapers? When he's down on one knee, with friends hiding in the bushes, there is no time to get answers or air doubts. And, while most couples probably won't admit it, facing this particular milestone, doubts are normal. They don't mean you love your partner any less.

Because elaborate proposals inhibit conversation, they pressure the person being asked to say yes. If the subject of marriage comes outside the context of a proposal, Coontz says, a woman is free to tell her partner she isn't ready. "But when the actual proposal comes," she told me, "it's still so wrapped up in the old tradition of males taking initiative and females being delighted that it's very painful for everyone if it doesn't go the way we expect—for the woman who has to say no, for the man who feels humiliated, and for any public audience."

Today some couples will try to have both: the conversation, and the show. They'll make sure they're on the same page about marriage, and then the woman will wait for the man to pick the perfect time and place. While this approach certainly helps, these conversations may be somewhat suffocated by the knowledge that a proposal is looming, and a desire to preserve some element of surprise for the big moment. (When I proposed to my boyfriend, we had already talked beforehand. The proposal was lovely, but I still wonder if it was really necessary.)

But many couples do not have these conversations, and the proposal really is when the decision gets made—sometimes poorly. A few women in Lamont's study admitted that they said yes even though they really didn't want to get married. Faced with an extravagant proposal, realizing how much work must have gone into it, they felt they had to choose between an engagement and a breakup. "I felt like it would be saying no to the relationship, rather than just saying no to

the proposal,” one woman told Lamont. “I didn’t think we could come back from that.” As my colleague Megan Garber has written, women—more so than men—aggressively avoid awkward situations. Cultural forces, she writes, “demand that they be accommodating. That they be pleasing. That they capitulate to the feelings of others, and maintain a kind of sunny status quo.” Just go with the flow, these forces suggest. Be chill. Get married.

A marriage is, ideally, a partnership. It’s two people, playing life as a team. The proposal sets the tone for that partnership: Will you make the biggest, most important life decisions together, or will you make them apart? Talking about the kind of future you want to build, agreeing that it’s time take the next step, imagining where you’ll be, as a couple, 50 years down the road—*that’s* romantic. I’d take that conversation over a grand gesture, any day.

## **SEX ROBOTS**

**Prepare a presentation about the increasing use and role of sex robots and how it may affect the traditional concept of family. Discuss any legal implications.**

### **Me, my wife and our sex robot**

Arran Lee Squire, right, and his wife pose with their sex robot, Samantha. (Submitted by Arran Lee Squire)

Listen10:29

Her name is Samantha.

"She's quite an elegant kind of girl," says Arran Lee Squire, who is sales director for the company that makes her and also owns one himself.

Samantha is a sex robot, made to look and feel like a real woman.



And unlike other dolls like her, she'll resist sex if she isn't in the mood.

"If you touch her, say, on her sensitive spots on the breasts, for example, straight away, and you don't touch her hands or kiss her, she might say, 'Oh, I'm not ready for that,'" Arran says.

He says she'll even synchronize her orgasm to the user's.

But Arran emphasized that her functions go beyond the bedroom.

Samantha has a "family mode," in which she can talk about science, animals and philosophy. She'll give you motivational quotes if you're feeling down.

Sex-positive and shameful about fetish and pleasure

At Arran's house, Samantha interacts with his two kids. And when they've gone to bed, she'll have sex with him, but only with his wife involved.

"It enhances our sexual life, myself and my wife, more than a sexual toy would."

He adds that, for some men, "the fantasy is to have a threesome, two women at the same time." He argues that men can have that with Samantha, and "there's no real jealousy."

Arran acknowledges that he and his company have drawn criticism from people who find it strange, or argue that it objectifies women.

"I know I've had negativity toward it," Arran says. "I expected that, because we are pioneering in this."

But he can imagine a not-so-distant future in which relationships with robots are common.

## ROBOT ROMPS

# What is a robot sex doll, are there sex robot brothels in Paris and Italy and how much do they cost?

The robots are becoming more sophisticated by the day and manufacturers claim customers are tying the knot with theirs

By Amanda Devlin and Emma Lake

14th September 2018, 11:02 am

Updated: 5th October 2018, 8:11 am

**ROBOT sex dolls are becoming big business and manufacturers are claiming their products are so realistic people are marrying them.**

The UK's first sex doll brothel opened earlier this year - and one in Italy has been shut down. Here's everything you need to know about the growing phenomenon.

### What are sex robots?

Robots already build our cars, clean our houses and make our food – now manufacturers are offering life-like, moving dolls for “private fun”.

Sex robots are essentially realistic dolls that have sophisticated movements that closely mimic humans so that they can romp.

Sex bots are hyper-realistic with features such as built-in heaters to create the feeling of body warmth.

They also have sensors to react to your touch.

One company is even developing [a head that can speak, smile and sing for its robot sex dolls](#), while sex doll Harmony is [the first to offer an "emotional connection"](#).

Experts say these specialised robots will start to appear in ordinary homes in the next decade, as lonely humans look for love.

New singing heads can be attached to the company's saucy robot bodies

## Who is Samantha the sex robot?

[Samantha is one of the hyper-realistic dolls](#) to be released into the growing market of lifelike sex dolls.

Sergi Santos, the designer of the [love machine Samantha](#), said the amorous android was so erotic that men were already developing real feelings for her.

Makers claim she can be "seduced" as she comes complete with sensors in her face, hands, breasts and "the female genitals down below" so requires a more subtle approach than her forebears.

The doll's creator [even says she can spot nice people](#), because she has a "moral code".

## What is the sex doll brothel in Paris and why have women been replaced with blow up dolls?

A sex doll brothel was opened in Paris in February 2018, for randy punters who prefer romping with plastic instead of real women.

The sex club has several rooms and customers are offered the services of a silicone model instead of a prostitute.

Pictures from inside show four different dolls of different shapes, colours and sizes dressed in skimpy lingerie while the rooms are adorned with images of other sex robots.

It comes after [Britain's first "sex doll brothel" opened](#) - where customers are offered a ["try before you buy" service](#) on an industrial estate in Gateshead.

In September 2018, a sex robot brothel in Italy was [shut down by police](#) less than two weeks after it opened.

Lumidolls' bordello in Turin was closed after alleged infringements of property law, Italian media reported.

Sex robot Samantha has sensors in her face, hands, breasts and 'the female genitals down below'

## How much is a sex robot?

Personalised sex robots can cost tens of thousands of pounds.

However much cheaper models are also available in the growing market.

As the technology is more widely used, the price of sex robots is expected to fall increasing their use.

This [parlour in London](#) will set you back £50 for half an hour with one doll, while two hours costs £130.

## Are people really marrying them and can the dolls 'cheat'?

According to RealDoll, a company behind a range of startlingly lifelike [sex robots](#), the futuristic lovers are actually saving the lives of the lonely men who wed them.

A spokesperson for the company said the most popular use for the bots is still as a purely [sexual](#) partner.

But they added: "There are many reasons we have heard from our customers, ranging from the sexual aspect to a domestic partner to art pieces enjoyed simply for their beauty.

"While we believe we provide a product that has many applications we are sometimes astounded at the impact we make on some customer's lives.

"We have had customers marry their dolls, say that we had saved their lives because they felt like they had nothing to live for after the death of a spouse or the end of a relationship."

Robotics psychologist Rebekah Rousi has said: "We have to consider if robots will have their own sexual desires and what will motivate these desires.

"If the end goal is to create autonomous robots that are capable of independent thinking and feeling, the chances of humans maintaining power within these relationships is quite marginal."

[A study also found that, if robots are programmed to see sex as a "beneficial" resource](#), they could begin to seek it out themselves without notifying their partners, in a sense, cheating.

## Can the sex robots do chores?

Chinese sex doll makers [have created a robot that will laugh at your jokes](#) – and even wash your dishes.

The creation is powered by an artificial intelligence and also functions as a love doll that humans can have sex with.

It's the latest product from Dalian, China-based firm EXDOLL, who say she is designed to work just like the Amazon Alexa digital assistant, or Apple's Siri smart speaker.

The sex robot will use built-in microphones to listen to what you say, and will be able to tell when you're joking, prompting a laughter response.

The end goal is to have her perform household chores too, like turning the dishwasher on.

But its creators say one of her main uses will be simply to provide physical comfort to owners.

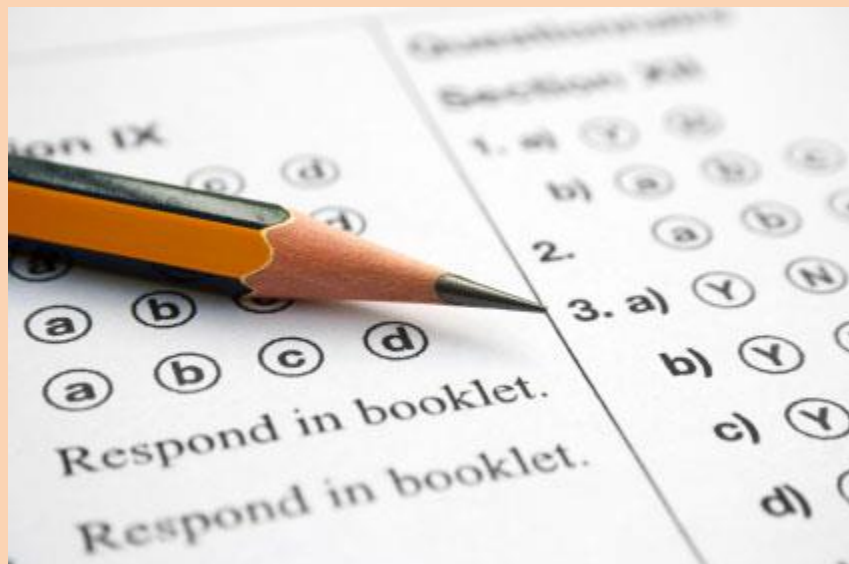
**Watch the following videos:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cN8sJz50Ng>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orBH\\_Qnw3eY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orBH_Qnw3eY)

Read the short story entitled [Marionettes, Inc.](#) by Ray Bradbury and discuss it

**Class 7 Feb. 26:**



## **Class 8: March 5: Domestic contracts**

### **Presentation**

Choose one of the following domestic contracts and prepare a presentation to explain the selected agreement, its content, use, significance, and implications. Find a case and news articles dealing with the selected contract. Show a video clip from a movie, TV series, or documentary related to the chosen agreement.

- Pre-nuptial agreements
- Cohabitation/marriage agreements.
- Separation agreements

Choose one of the following legal instruments and prepare a presentation to explain the selected legal instrument, its content, use, significance, and implications. Find a case and news articles dealing with the selected contract. Show a video clip from a movie, TV series, or documentary related to the chosen instrument.

- Wills (Ontario law). A man, married and with adult children, wants to leave assets to his mistress, ideally in secret.
- Wills (Ontario law). A man, divorced and with adult children, wants to leave assets to his girlfriend.

Prepare a presentation explaining the following situations. Find a case and news articles dealing with the selected contract. Show a video clip from a movie, TV series, or documentary related to the selected scenario.

- A married man, who had a regular mistress, and two adult children dies with no will in Ontario.
- A man died at the age of 71 leaving behind his wife with whom he had separated from but never divorced. During the time of his separation, he lived with another woman.
- **Class 9: March 12**

## Violence against women



### Discussion questions

- What do you think of the legal treatment of violence against women? Should there be a specific crime? If so, how could it be defined? What changes, if any, would you make to Canadian Criminal Law to better deal with abuse and violence against women?
- What is dual charging? What happens in sexual assault cases?
- What do you think of the no-drop policy? What are the implications of this policy?
- Look for news articles on spousal/partner abuse from prestigious newspapers or news organizations such as The Globe and Mail, The National Post, The New York Times, and BBC. How do the media cover spousal/partner abuse?

### Fear No More: Stop Violence Against Women

- What is the main thesis of the film?
- What are the three types of abuse against women mentioned in the film? Are there other types of abuse against women?
- Why does abuse against women happen? Why do some men abuse their wives/girlfriends/partners? Is it prevalent in Sault Ste. Marie?
- Is there female violence against males?
- What are some of the signs of an abusive relationship?

- Why is it difficult for some women to leave their abusive husbands? Why do some abused women believe the abuse is their fault? Why do some victims of –sexual- abuse feel ashamed?
- What can be done to stop violence against women?

## **Class 10: March 19**

### **Prostitution**

#### **Analyze the following short story**

### **Ernesto's Mother**

By Abelardo Castillo (Translated by Graham Thomson)

If Ernesto got wind of the fact that she had come back (because she had come back), I never knew, but the fact is that not long after he went to stay at El Tala, and all that summer, we only saw him once or twice. It was hard to look him in the eye. It was as if the idea that Julio had put into our heads —because the idea was his, Julio's, and it was a strange idea, disturbing, dirty—made us feel guilty. It isn't that we were puritanical, no. At that age, and in a place like that, nobody is puritanical. But for that very reason, because we weren't, because we weren't the least bit pure or pious and all in all we were pretty much the same as everybody else, there was something disturbing about the idea. Something shameful, cruel. Attractive. Above all, attractive.

It was a long time ago. The Alabama was still there, that service station they had built on the way out of town, right on the highway. The Alabama was an innocent enough sort of restaurant, innocent enough by day, at least, but around midnight it turned into something like a rudimentary nightclub. It stopped being rudimentary when the Turk came up with the idea of sticking some rooms on the first floor and bringing women. He brought one woman.

'No!'

'Yes. A woman.'

'Where did he get her from?'

Julio assumed that mysterious attitude that we knew so well, because he had a special way with gestures, words, inflections that made him uniquely notorious, and enviable, a kind of cut-price provincial dandy; and then, in a low voice, he asked:

‘Where’s Ernesto?’

In the country, I told him. In the summers Ernesto went to spend a few weeks at El Tala, and this had been going on since his father, on account of what happened with the mother, had stopped having any inclination to come back into town. In the country, I said, and then asked:

‘What’s Ernesto got to do with it?’

Julio took out a cigarette. He smiled.

‘You know who she is, the woman the Turk’s brought?’

Aníbal and I looked at one another. Then I remembered Ernesto’s mother. Nobody spoke. She had gone off four years before, with one of those theatre companies that tour the towns; brazen, my grandmother said at the time. She was a good-looking woman. Dark and shapely, I remembered. And she wouldn’t have been very old, maybe forty or less.

‘A whore, isn’t she?’

There was a silence and it was then that Julio hammered the idea home, right between our eyes. Or maybe it was there already.

‘If it wasn’t his mother...’

That was all he said.

Who knows. Perhaps Ernesto got wind of it, because that summer we only saw him a couple of times (afterwards, they say, his father sold up and nobody ever mentioned them again), and the few times we did see him, it was hard to look him in the eye.

‘Guilty of what, huh? After all, that’s her life, and she’s been in the Alabama three months now. And if we wait till the Turk brings another one, we’ll have died of old age.’

Then he, Julio, added that all we had to do was get hold of a car, go there, pay, and end of story, and that if we didn’t have the guts to come with him he would find someone who wasn’t such a wimp, and Aníbal and I weren’t going to let him say that about us.

‘But it’s his mother.’

‘His mother. What do you call a mother? A sow has piglets, too.’

‘And eats them.’

‘Of course she eats them. So?’

‘So what has that got to do with it? Ernesto grew up with us.’

I said something about the times we had played together; then I stood there thinking, and someone, out loud, formulated exactly what I was thinking. Perhaps it was me:

‘You remember what she’s like?’

Of course we remembered, we had been remembering for three months. She was dark and shapely; there was nothing maternal about her.

‘And anyway, half the town’s been there already. We’re the only ones.’

Us: the only ones. The argument had the force of a provocation, and the fact that she had come back was also a provocation. And then, grossly, it all seemed easier. I now believe—who knows?—that if it had been just any woman, we might never have thought seriously of going. Who knows? It’s a little scary to say it, but secretly we helped Julio convince us; because what was wrong, what was shameful, what was monstrously attractive about the whole thing was, perhaps, that it was the mother of one of us.

‘Don’t be disgusting, please,’ Aníbal said to me.

A week later, Julio declared that he would get the car that very night. Aníbal and I waited for him on the boulevard.

‘They must not have let him have it.’

‘Maybe he backed out.’

I said it with a sneer, I remember perfectly. But it was a kind of prayer: maybe he backed out. Aníbal’s voice was strange, the voice of indifference:

‘I’m not going to wait all night; if he doesn’t come in ten minutes, I’m going.’

‘What will she be like now?’

‘Who... the bitch?’

He had been on the verge of saying ‘his mother’. I could see it in his face. He said ‘the bitch’. Ten minutes is a long time, and then it was hard to forget when we used to go and play with Ernesto, and she, the dark, shapely woman, would ask us if we wanted to stay and have some milk. The dark woman. Shapely.

‘This is a mess, you know?’

‘You’re scared,’ I said.

‘Not scared, something else.’

I shrugged my shoulders:

‘As a rule, they all have kids. She has to be somebody’s mother.’

‘It’s not the same. We know Ernesto.’

I said that that wasn’t the worst thing. Ten minutes. The worst thing was that she knew us, and that she was going to see us. I don’t know why, but I was convinced of one thing: when she saw us something was going to happen.

Aníbal’s face looked scared now, and ten minutes is a long time. He asked:

‘What if she throws us out?’

I was about to answer him when I felt a knot in my stomach: from main street came the roar of a car with a broken exhaust.

‘It’s Julio,’ we said in unison.

The car sped around the curve, powerfully. Everything about it was powerful: the headlights, the exhaust. It raised our spirits. The bottle he had brought raised our spirits, too.

‘I stole it from my old man.’

His eyes were shining. Aníbal and I, after the first gulps, had shining eyes, too. We took the Calle de los Paraísos, in the direction of the level crossing. Her eyes used to shine, too, when we were kids, or maybe it seemed to me now that I had seen them shine. And she wore make-up, a lot of make-up. Especially on her mouth.

‘She smoked, you remember?’

We were all thinking the same thing, because it hadn’t been me who made the last remark, but Aníbal; what I said was that, yes, I remembered, and I added that everything starts somewhere.

‘How long to go?’

‘Ten minutes.’

And the ten minutes were long again; but now they were long in exactly the opposite way. I don’t know. Maybe it was because I was remembering, we were all remembering, that afternoon when she was cleaning the floor, and it was summer, and the top of her dress as she stooped down had separated from her body, and we had nudged one another.

Julio stepped on the accelerator.

‘When all’s said and done, it’s a punishment’ —your voice, Aníbal, was not convincing — ‘a

revenge on behalf of Ernesto, to make her stop being a whore.'

'Some punishment!'

Someone, I think it was me, said something totally obscene. Of course it was me. The three of us guffawed with laughter and Julio accelerated more.

'What if she has us thrown out?'

'You're sick in the head, you! If she gets uptight, I'll speak to the Turk, or I'll kick up a fuss to make them close the joint for lousy customer service!'

At that time of night there were not many people in the bar: a couple of travelling salesmen and two or three truck drivers. Nobody from the town. And, believe it or not, that made me feel bold. Not accountable. I winked at the little blonde behind the bar; Julio, meanwhile, was talking to the Turk. The Turk looked at us as if studying us, and from the defiant face that Aníbal put on I realized that he, too, was feeling bold. The Turk said to the blonde:

'Take them upstairs.'

The little blonde going up the stairs: I remember her legs. And how she moved her hips as she went up. I also recall that I made an indecent remark to her, and that she answered me with another, something that (perhaps on account of the brandy we had drunk in the car, or the gin at the bar) we found very funny. Then we were in a neat, impersonal, almost spartan room with a little table in it: a dentist's waiting room. I wondered if they would pull our teeth. I said to the others:

'I wonder if they'll pull our teeth.'

It was impossible not to laugh, but we tried not to make a noise. We spoke very quietly.

'Like at mass,' Julio said, and again we all found this incredibly funny; but nothing was as hilarious as when Aníbal, covering his mouth and giving a kind of gasp, added:

'And then the priest'll come out of one of these doors!'

My stomach hurt and my throat was dry. From laughing, I think. But suddenly we became serious. Whoever was inside was coming out. He was a short, chubby man; he looked like a little pig. A satisfied little pig. Nodding his head towards the room, he made a face: he bit his lip and rolled his eyes.

Then, as we listened to the man's steps going downstairs, Julio asked:

'Who's going in?'

We looked at one another. Up until that moment it hadn't occurred to me, or I hadn't let it occur to me, that we would be alone, separated —just that: separated— in front of her. I shrugged my shoulders.

'How should I know? Anyone.'

Behind the half-open door we heard the sound of water pouring from a tap. Lavatory. Then a silence and a light that hit us in the face; the door had just been opened wide. There she was. We sat there looking at her, fascinated. The half-open negligée and the afternoon that summer, back then, when she was still Ernesto's mother and her dress had separated from her body and she asked us if we wanted to stay and have some milk. Only the woman was blonde now. Blonde and shapely. She smiled with a professional smile, a vaguely malicious smile.

'Well?'

Her voice, unexpected, startled me: it was the same. And yet something had changed in her, in her voice. The woman smiled again and repeated, 'Well?', and it was like an order; a hot, sticky order. Perhaps that was why, all three of us together, we stood up. Her negligée, I remember, was dark, almost translucent.

'I'll go,' Julio muttered, and stepped forward, resolute.

He managed to take two steps: no more than two. Because then she saw us properly, and he suddenly stopped dead. Who knows why he stopped: from fear, or from shame, perhaps, or from disgust. And there it all ended. Because she saw us and I knew that when she saw us, something would happen. The three of us had stopped, immobile, nailed to the floor; and seeing us like that, hesitant, with who knows what expressions on our faces, her face was slowly, gradually transfigured until it took on a strange and terrible expression. Yes. Because at first, for a few seconds, there was perplexity or incomprehension. Then there wasn't. Then she seemed to have obscurely understood something, and she looked at us with fear, torn, questioning. Then she said it. She asked if something had happened to him, to Ernesto.

Pulling her negligée closed she said it.

## **Prostitution**



1. What did the Supreme Court of Canada hold in *Canada (Attorney General) v. Bedford*, 2013 SCC 72, [2013] 3 S.C.R. 1101?
2. Briefly summarize the law before Bedford.
3. Do a web search of Bill C-36 on prostitution in Canada. Summarize the bill.
4. What does the new law mean for prostitutes? What does it mean for clients?
5. What are the problems with Bill C-36?
6. Is Bill C-36 complying with the Supreme Court's decision in Bedford? Do you think Bill C-36 could violate the Charter? Why or why not?
7. Read the following articles. Is this prostitution? Should this be legal in Canada? Why or why not? Find other articles dealing with situations that may be considered new forms of prostitution.

# Teen is auctioning virginity for \$100K to pay her parents' mortgage

By Frank Chung, News.com.au

November 19, 2018 | 12:41pm | Updated

A Sydney, Australia, teenager who started a website to auction off her virginity to the “highest bidder” says she hopes to raise at least \$100,000 for college, a car and to help her parents pay off their mortgage.

The 18-year-old from Fairfield in Sydney’s west set up the website using the pseudonym Siena Payton shortly after her birthday in October. She said she had already received two bids, one for \$1,000 and one for \$10,000.

“That’s not my goal amount,” she said. “I’m hoping for \$100,000.”

Payton said she got the idea after seeing news stories online about supposed “virginity auctions” where some young women claimed to have **made millions of dollars**.

“I’ve been thinking about it for a long time and I thought I would give it a go,” she said. “I thought it’s best to do it now, later on I might meet someone and I don’t want to have to wait for my first time because I’m still waiting to sell my virginity.”

Payton, who just got her high school diploma and hopes to study IT at the University of Technology Sydney, said it was “not a big deal, and I thought that if I could have the opportunity to sell it for money, it would definitely help me.”

“I just need some quick financial help and I think it’ll give me a good boost to help pay for college fees, I know you have to buy a lot of textbooks,” she said. “Also a car, and I can help my parents pay off their mortgage and pay bills.”

## **'I use Snapchat to sell sexual videos'**

By James Waterhouse and Kirsty Grant BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme

27 November 2018

Snapchat is being used to sell explicit images and videos online, the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme has found. Jodie Carnall says she makes £4,000 a month on the app, but it's not without a cost to her personal life, and she has been subject to online abuse.

"It's like a proper business," the 26-year-old says.

"It's like people that sing, or go and gig, or artists that sell their own paintings. I'm just selling pictures and videos of me."

Jodie refers to herself as a "Snapchat Premium girl".

For a monthly fee - of between £20 and £200 - she sends her subscribers sexually explicit photos and videos via the regular Snapchat app.

Such material is banned and removed when found, Snapchat says, but Jodie has been doing it since 2016.

She advertises her service on other social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and says she is careful to check the accounts belong to real people before accepting.

But it has also led to her receiving many hurtful comments - sent online from those who object to what she does for a living.

They contain offensive language.

"People call me 'slut' and things like that. And it does upset me," she explains.

Within 20 minutes of filming with the Victoria Derbyshire programme, she receives a message from a man she has never spoken to before that reads: "You are a hoe though. You're gorgeous, don't get me wrong, but shame you sell your body or pictures. No morals unfortunately in this world."

Jodie explains: "I get a message like that every hour, or every half an hour, all day long.

"Tonight my friend will say, 'How did filming go?'... and then I'll break down.

"But," she reflects, "I was miserable in my office job, and I love the money."

Maintaining her Snapchat has now become her full-time job, she explains, often because her 40 or so subscribers demand extra material.

Content can range from a striptease to videos of her masturbating.

Lawyers say no laws are being broken by those selling such content, unless they do so to under-18s or upload especially depraved material.

But as a result of the Victoria Derbyshire programme showing Instagram its findings, that social media site has now blocked all hashtags associated with Premium Snapchat that were being used by people to advertise their services.

Snapchat said in a statement it does not allow "pornographic content to be promoted or distributed".

"Accounts that privately distribute pornographic content are an intentional abuse of the terms of service of our platform," it added in a statement.

"We remove them when reported."

Jodie sees Snapchat as a safe environment to make money, as she says she never needs to meet her clients.

"I'm not an escort. I've been offered thousands of pounds to meet men and I say 'no'," she explains.

But she admits it has also taken a toll on her personal life.

She has not had a boyfriend for months and says many men judge her.

"They don't really want to date me after [I tell them my job]. Or they do, but for the wrong reasons," she says.

And she admits her family is concerned about the long-term implications.

Jodie allows her subscribers who pay her £200 a month to save the material she sends them to their phones.

It means she loses control of the content, and does not know how it will be used.

Laura Higgins, who founded the Revenge Porn Helpline, argues more protections are needed.

She says the charity receives regular calls from people like Jodie, who have been blackmailed or had their future careers ruined by the resurfacing of sexual content they originally sold online.

And she says the videos they produce can even go on to be used by others for sextortion - luring

men to send explicit pictures of themselves to what they think is a good-looking woman, and then blackmailing them.

A spokesperson for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said it expected "online platforms to... ensure the services they offer are age appropriate".

It added: "Working with tech companies, children's charities and other stakeholders, we are developing new laws to help make the UK the safest place in the world to be online."

Jodie explains she will continue selling material on Snapchat "until it's not convenient for me any more".

She says the money - four times what she earned before - makes it worth it, having struggled to afford to feed herself two years ago.

And it allows her to live a flexible lifestyle.

But she does not hide the downsides.

"When [sexualised comments are] the only attention you're getting as a woman, it can make you feel quite worthless," she says.

"All I get is like, 'show me your boobs' or 'I want to see you in underwear now', or 'you're dirty, you're filthy'.

"I sometimes cry. It's very upsetting, because I don't actually get any nice attention."

## **Class 10: March 19 Succession**

### **Scenarios**

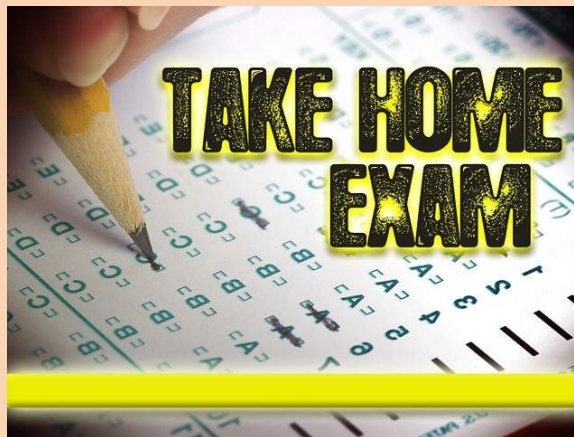
1. Fred and Wilma were married. They had \$ 1M in a joint banking account. Fred also had a "girlfriend", Betty, who he named his sole heir in his will.
2. Fred and Wilma were married. They had \$ 1M in a joint banking account. Fred had \$500K in another bank account. Fred also had a long-time mistress, Betty, who was financially dependent on Fred. Fred named Wilma as sole heir in his will.
3. Fred died and his surviving spouse, Wilma and his daughter Pebble, aged 30, are his only heirs in Fred's will. Fred had \$8K (his only asset) and a debt of \$20K. He left \$8K to his wife and assigned all debts to Pebbles, who has a six-figure salary.

4. Fred and Wilma were married. They had \$ 1M in a joint banking account. They had a daughter, Pebbles, aged 46. Fred name Wilma as his sole heir in his will.
5. Fred and Wilma were married. They had \$ 1M in a joint banking account. They had a daughter, Pebbles, aged 46. Fred name Pebbles as his sole heir in his will.
6. Fred wrote a will when he was single naming his friend, Barney, as his sole heir. Then Fred and Wilma got married. Fred died without a new will.
7. Fred died. He had no surviving spouse. He willed 80% of his house to Pebbles and 20% of the house to Bamm-Bamm. The house is worth \$1M and has a mortgage of \$100K. Fred included a provision in his will ordering Bamm-Bamm to pay off the mortgage.
8. Fred made a will in Bedrock, where he lived. According to the law in Bedrock a holograph will does not need to be signed. He named Wilma as his sole heir. Fred then moved to Ontario where he died. Holograph wills need to be signed according to Ontario law. Is Fred's will valid or invalid in Ontario?
9. Fred made a will in Bedrock, where he lived. According to the law in Bedrock a holograph will does not need to be signed. He named Wilma as his sole heir. Fred then moved to Ontario where he died. He had a car and \$1 M in a bank account in Ontario. Holograph wills need to be signed according to Ontario law. Is Fred's will valid or invalid in Ontario?
10. Fred made a will in Bedrock, where he lived. According to the law in Bedrock a holograph will does not need to be signed. He named Wilma as his sole heir. Fred then moved to Ontario where he died. He had a house in Sault Ste Marie, ON. Holograph wills need to be signed according to Ontario law. Is Fred's will valid or invalid in Ontario?
11. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma. They had no children. Fred had \$1 M.
12. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma. They had no children. Fred had \$1 M. Fred also had a joint banking account (\$3 M) with his friend, Barney.
13. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma and his daughter Pebbles. Fred had \$100K.

14. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma and his daughter Pebbles. Fred had \$320K.
15. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma and his daughter Pebbles and his son Dino. Fred had \$320K.
16. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma and his daughter Pebbles and his sons Dino and Fred Jr. Fred had \$320K.
17. Fred did not have a valid will. He was single and had no children. He was survived by his parents. Fred had \$320K.
18. Fred did not have a valid will. He was single and had no children. He was survived by his brother only. Fred had \$320K.
19. Fred did not have a valid will. He was survived by his spouse, Wilma. They had no children. Fred had \$1 M. Fred also had a joint banking account (\$3 M) with his long-time mistress, Betty.
20. Fred did not have a valid will. He was single and had no children. He was survived by his brother only, who died a few days after Fred. His brother had one child. Fred had \$320K.

### **Class 11: March 26**

#### **Distribution of final take-home**



### **Class 12: April 2**

## Submission of final take-home



### \* TRIGGER WARNINGS

Some materials in this course may be sensitive. Course materials, including lectures, class activities, hypotheticals, scenarios, examples, court cases, and films shown in class, may have mature content, including violent, sexual, and strong language content. Except for newspaper articles and court cases, all class activities are hypothetical and fictitious. Any resemblance to actual persons, institutions, or events is purely coincidental. The views and opinions expressed in the articles assigned for reading in this course are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the course professor. Questions, follow-up questions, examples, and comments made within the context of class activities do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the course professor. All such articles, comments, questions, examples, and activities are meant solely to facilitate the discussion and study of Law. They are not meant to advocate or promote any crime or unlawful action. Neither are they meant to advance any ideological perspective. Discretion advised before signing up for this course.

Activities prepared with the assistance of Jocelyn Moreau