Syllabus – General Public Law (DCC2118)

Fall Term 2018

Professor: Daniel Poulin
Time: Thursdays, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
E-mail: daniel.poulin@chrc-ccdpp.gc.ca

If you want to meet me at my office please send me an email.

Course Description


Course Objectives

After taking this course, students should understand:

- Key public law concepts such as the Rule of law, judicial oversight, the common law, Droit Civil, Parliamentary supremacy, federalism, and constitutional limits.
- Basic techniques to identify and apply public law principles from legislation, judicial decisions, and other sources.
- General public law principles in certain areas, including federalism, the interpretation of legislation, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, government administration, aboriginal law, and elections law.
- How public law disputes are resolved and the practical considerations for individuals and companies in managing such disputes.

Method of Instruction

The course will primarily be taught in lecture format, with in-class discussion strongly encouraged.

Method of Evaluation

- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 10%
- Mid Term Exam: 40% (at a date to be determined)
- Final Exam: 40% (at a date to be determined)

Attendance will be taken using a sign-up sheet during the year and marks will be given if the student was present at the majority of the classes. Students will not be penalized for absences that are justified by an email. An email to the professor from the student explaining the absence will be sufficient. No doctor notes are required.
Students are expected to come to every class having read the assigned materials including the presentations and to participate in class discussions. Class participation will be assessed through the session. Students must ensure to complete the required readings and arrive to class prepared to actively participate in the discussion. The mark will be assessed based on both the quality and quantity of the student’s participation in that class, with particular attention paid to the extent to which the student has demonstrated meaningful engagement with and understanding of the assigned reading materials.

The final method of evaluation will be two exams to take place on dates to be confirmed. The format of the exam will be essay question. Students may consult their reading materials and notes in completing the exam and can have access to the websites used during the course. Strong answers to each of the exam questions will cite (where relevant to support the answer) various provisions of the laws we’ve covered, cases and readings, issues covered in class discussion and guest lectures.

Note that open book exams do not include the right to use a computer. It is strongly suggested to print the presentations that will be made available to the students.

The university rules regarding plagiarism apply fully, and students must prepare and write their exam without consultation with other students or any other third party.

**Readings**

Readings will consist of judicial decisions, legislation, news articles, and legal commentary and will be circulated in advance. In general, I will circulate the presentations one week in advance.

**Tentative Calendar**

This calendar is subject to change. I will let you know if there are any changes.

**Class 1**

- Overview of the course
- Introduction to legal analysis

**Class 2**

- Key public law concepts: the Rule of Law, Constitutional Supremacy, and Judicial Independence
- Legal Research and writing
Class 3
- Federalism: The division of federal and provincial power

Class 4
- Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Class 5
- Statutory Interpretation

Class 6
- Administrative Law

Class 7
- Mid-term exam

Class 8
- Public law disputes and procedure

Class 9
- Government legal accountability outside of the court system
- Access to information

Class 10
- International public law
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Class 11
- Course review and final exam preparation

**Academic Fraud**

Students are expected to uphold the University’s standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating on tests or other forms of academic fraud can result in serious sanctions, including grade penalties, suspension, and expulsion.

Students should carefully read the University’s Regulation on Academic Fraud, available at [http://www.uottawa.ca/about/academic-regulation-14-other-important-information](http://www.uottawa.ca/about/academic-regulation-14-other-important-information).

SERVICES OFFERED TO STUDENTS:

• The University’s SASS (Student Academic Success Service) offers a variety of services (http://web.sass.uottawa.ca/). Amongst others, it is host to the Academic Writing Help Centre (AWHC), (http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/), located at 110, University Private.

• The Access Service provides individualized services to help handicapped students and those struggling learning disabilities. This service is also under the umbrella of the SASS (http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/access/)

• The Community Life Service also regularly publishes the list of academic and social activities taking place on campus (http://www.communitylife.uottawa.ca/en/).