

Course Outline

COURSE: FYSM 1502 B – First Year Seminar: Governance and the Rule of Law

TERM: Fall/Winter 2008/09

CLASS: Day & Time: Monday & Wednesday - 8:35-9:55 am
Room: Fall - B149 LA (Loeb)
Winter - B243 LA (Loeb)

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Dianne George

CONTACT: Office: D598 LA (Loeb)
Office Hrs: Monday & Wednesday – 1:00-2:00 pm – or by appointment
Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 2084
Email: dgeorge@ccs.carleton.ca
Course mailbox & essay chute: Law Department – C473 LA (Loeb)

ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE CONCEALED AND NEITHER VISIBLE NOR AUDIBLE DURING CLASS

"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations." With regard to accommodations for religious obligations and pregnancy, please see http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the concept of the rule of law, which is often expressed in the adage, no person is above the law, but is really a concept that defies definition. We will look at the concept through an analysis of the requirements in a political/legal system to operate by rule of law and will apply this analysis to an actual situation, policing scandals in Canada. Since the meaning of the term, rule of law, is uncertain and often criticized, we will approach the concept through various arguments about its nature, location in state theory, and value.

1. To learn the content of the course.
2. To develop the skills you will need in future courses:
 - a) to read and follow and argument
 - b) to write for a specific purpose, eg. an analysis
 - c) to research online and in the library
 - d) to speak in class by debating and presenting
 - e) to work in groups but to submit individual work for each assignment

REQUIRED READING

1. Governance and the Rule of Law course materials available as a bound book from Allegra Print and Publishing, 1069 Bank St., 730-3000.
2. Knutilla, Murray and Wendee Kubik, State Theories: Classical, Global and Feminist Perspectives. 3rd ed. (Halifax: Fernwood, 1992) available from Mother Tongue Bookstore, 1067 Bank St., 730-2346.

GRADING

All assignments must be submitted in class the day they are due unless permission has been granted for late submissions. Permission for late submissions will be given for up to seven days with a valid excuse. Thereafter, the assignments will be graded but marks will be deducted for each late day.

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| 1. | CLASS PARTICIPATION | 15% | This mark is based upon: attendance, evidence that the assigned material has been read, taking part in discussions, taking part in other learning activities in class. |
| 2. | Two short reports | 10% | |
| 3. | An essay of 7 to 10 pages | 20% | |
| 4. | An analysis | 20% | |
| 5. | An essay of 7 to 10 pages | 20% | |
| 6. | A researched presentation | 15% | |

(ALL COMPONENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO GET A PASSING GRADE)