

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 3503 A - Equality and Discrimination
TERM:	Fall 2011
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2004 [1.0] (no longer offered) or LAWS 2005 [1.0] (no longer offered) or LAWS 2105 or LAWS 2302 or LAWS 2502
CLASS:	Day & Time: Tuesdays from 11:35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (Contract)	Dr. Aliaa Dakroury
CONTACT:	Office: B442 Loeb Building) Tower B Office Hours: 1) Course WebCT chat; or 2) By appointment.
	Email: adakrou@connect.carleton.ca <i>Please note that the course WebCT email tool is the main method of communication with the professor and with her teaching assistant.</i>

"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accommodations> . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by 11 November 2011 for December exams and 7 March 2012 for April exams. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

The course examines issues of discrimination in the Canadian society through a critical examination of the different ways of thinking about and responding to group-based inequalities. As Article (1) of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* stated that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights", this course intends to uncover and critically assess the current challenges that face the practice of such rights and freedoms on the international and Canadian spheres. The main goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of the principal laws relating to equality and human rights in Canada and to encourage critical and creative thinking about the role of law and the legal and social systems in furthering/inhibiting equality and in responding to issues of discrimination. Adopting a human rights lens, and using a variety of academic articles, the course will look at the history of discrimination; the "rights" debates; the different theoretical approaches to the conceptualization of human rights; and the meaning of equality and discrimination. Using a group of Canadian and international case studies, we will explore the present day experiences of discrimination and inequality. Examples of cases studies are, but not limited to, racism; ethnicity; gender inequality; free (vs.) hate speech; and multiculturalism among others.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Dakroury, A. (2009). *Communication and Human Rights*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing. (Available at *Havenbooks Bookstore, Sunnyside and Seneca St.*)
- **Other Required Readings:** Other **required** readings include online journal articles posted on the course WebCT in a downloadable format. Students will be expected to retrieve copies of these readings and read them in preparation for the appropriate classes. Hence you are strongly advised to **regularly** check the course WebCT for course updates and announcements.

USEFUL LINKS

- *The International Bill of Rights*, available online at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs2.htm>
- *The Canadian Bill of Rights*, available online at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/C-12.3///en?page=1>
- *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, available online at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/>
- *The Canada Human Rights Act*, available online at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/H-6/text.html>
- *The Ontario Human Rights Code*, available online at: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/code>

COURSE EVALUATION - All components **must be** completed in order to pass the course.

Assignment	%	Deadline Due
Class attendance	10	Weekly/ongoing
In-class Workshops/discussions	15	Weekly/ongoing
Reading diary	25	20 Sept; 4 Oct; 14 Oct; 25 Oct.; and 15 Nov.
In-class Presentation	20	To be scheduled
Discrimination case study	30	On 11 November 2010
Total	100	

EVALUATION SCHEME

The focus of this course is not only to explore theories, rather discuss issues and cases related to equality and discrimination in and outside Canada. Hence, despite the size of the class, there will be a major focus on discussion. Class interventions should reflect knowledge of the assigned readings. Evaluation scheme of the course includes:

1. CLASS ATTENDANCE (10%)

Students are expected to attend and participate **actively** in all classes. It is assumed that you have done the readings and that you are prepared to discuss them in class. Marks will be allocated on both the quantity and quality of your contribution in class. Preparation for class is essential; class interventions should reflect knowledge of the assigned readings. Please refer to the in-class satisfactory performance below.

2. IN-CLASS WORKSHOP (15%)

Throughout the course, students will be handed (or posted on the webCT) one topic and/or question every class. Using the workshop template (available on webCT), they will (in groups) try to answer the question, and/or discuss it in relation to the weekly readings. Typically, there are no right or wrong, yet, the professor (and her TA) will assess the groups' standpoint vis-à-vis the idea of equality and discrimination as stated in the course objective.

3. READING DIARY (25%)

Over the course of the term, each student is to submit 5 reading journals where they analyse and critically reflect on all weekly assigned readings. A **3 double-spaced** outline should be handed to the professor (or her TA) **before** the start of the class. Typically, a reading diary is a personal ongoing reflection of the main ideas argued in the assigned weekly readings. Each reading diary should be analyzed in relation to the theme of the course, their positive/negative contribution to the discussion of equality and discrimination in/outside Canada. Although no further research is associated/required with this assignment, yet, students are encouraged to use case study of their choice to prove/refute the reading's claim/thesis. (i.e., newspapers are an excellent source for a variety of examples and cases; you can have them either in printed or electronic formats). Students should be prepared to discuss their diaries in an interactive setting **weekly**.

4. IN-CLASS PRESENTATION (20%)

Students will be required to prepare and present **one (1)** oral presentation in-class to be scheduled throughout the course. The main objective of this assignment is to provide: (1) your colleagues with your informed opinion about a particular issue/debate/idea related to the theme of the course; and (2) to reflect on how the project /issue can be situated vis-à-vis the ideas/concepts/arguments presented in the course readings and lectures. The guidelines of your presentation will be post on the course WebCT as early as possible.

5. DISCRIMINATION CASE STUDY (30%)

A list of topics will be distributed (and/or posted at the course WebCT) on issues of discrimination in Canada. You will have the choice to choose only **ONE (1)** issue to write a research paper on its origins and currents debates, and to critically examine the possible solutions from both legal and social perspectives. Your paper should not exceed 12 pages long; double spaced, including references and bibliography. (Detailed guidelines will be posted on the course WebCT). The discrimination case study assignment is due on/before **8 November 2011 in-class**. The professor will create a drop-in box on the course WebCT to submit electronically your essay on/before the due date (as a backup). p.s.: If you wish to write your paper on a specific topic, you will be required to send a one paragraph proposal/outline to your professor (or her TA) for approval at least 2 weeks before the assignment's due date. In this case, you will not be allowed to write your essay on the same topic of your presentation (i.e. they should be different).

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

A topic and reading assignment schedule will be handed out separately (and/or posted on the webCT) at the beginning of the term.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Communication Outside of the Class:** Please note that the course WebCT is the primary tool for communicating electronically with students outside of class. Students should check Web-CT on a daily (regular) basis for information updates concerning assignments, announcement, readings,..etc. The instructor will not respond to any other email accounts (hotmail, yahoo, google..etc). In case the WebCT is technically down, Carleton connect account is the only means of communication.
- **For Religious observance:** to be worked out on individual basis with the professor. Please consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days (www.carleton.ca/equity).
- **For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations should contact Equity Services to obtain a *letter of accommodation* (ext. 5622). The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.
- **Plagiarism and Other Academic Offences:** It is a serious violation of university regulations to take credit for the work of others. Students are expected to consult and become familiar with Carleton University's policies on plagiarism. All sources must be cited according in the APA style, this includes all paraphrased work and accredited internet sources. A student caught plagiarizing will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
- **Expectations:** I believe that it is one of my students' "rights" to know exactly my expectations, and the basis of my evaluation of their performance in this course. Hence, a detailed rubric for each assignment will be discussed in class, and will be posted as early as possible on the course WebCT.
- **Satisfactory In-Class Performance** in this course includes: 1) Regular class attendance; 2) Reading and preparing the course materials; 3) Being actively engaged in the weekly discussions; 4) Submitting your work on-time; 5) Being well-organized and prepared to contribute and lead the discussion throughout the course.

- **Satisfactory Written Performance** in this course includes: 1) Doing a reasonable amount of research (not merely depending on the course readings as the only resource; 2) effective use of primary resources, relying basically on refereed academic publication; 3) AVOID the use of internet non-academic sources; 4) Following APA style; 5) Ensuring that work handed in is free from any grammar and spelling mistakes; 6) having a clear thesis statement in your essay/proposal/analyses; 7) using appropriate methodology; and 8) Depending on an appropriate theoretical background; 8) your work is typewritten, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with standard 1inch margins; 9) you have included a title page (indicating: course code, your name; student number; professor's name; and the date of submission).
- **In fairness for all students**, the professor WILL NOT review or comment on any assignments' draft by e-mail prior to submission. Instead, I will be happy to discuss any questions, inquiries, writing advices in person during the office hours, in-class, or at the WebCT chat.
- **Missed assignments** will NOT be deferred unless an official note is submitted to and approved by the instructor. If you find that you are unable to complete an assignment for the date in which it is due, you must make accommodation with the instructor AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO the start of the class in which the assignment is due. Accommodation will only be made for valid, verifiable circumstances that would prevent the student from attending the class or completing the assignment. Poor time management or planning is not a valid circumstance. Please consult the Registrar's office webpage for more information: (<http://www.carleton.ca/registrar/>).
- **Standing**: "Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the faculty dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the dean."
- **Grading system**: According to Carleton University grading system (section 2:3) of the undergraduate calendar, the following percentage equivalents apply to the course final grades:

A+	90-100	B+	77-79
A	85-89	B	73-76
A-	80-84	B-	70-72
C+	67-69	D+	57-59
C	63-66	D	53-56
C-	60-62	D-	50-52
		F	0-49

- **Late submission**: All Late written work will be marked down by ONE-half letter grade on EACH day being late (A- to B+; B+ to B;...etc) and only if appended with a verifiable medical note.
- **Assignments' delivery**: To maximize the safe delivery of any written assignment, you are requested to submit them either to the instructor in person or department's drop-in box (or when announced in the WebCT Drop-in box). Please DO NOT submit your papers by attached files to the emails or dropping them under the instructor's doorstep; They WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- **Retaining course work assignments**: All written assignments will be evaluated by the instructor, grades will be posted at the course WebCT, and papers are to be picked up from the instructor in person (or her TA) in class or during her office hours. If you will not be available by the end of the course, please provide a pre-stamped envelope along with mailing address and it will be mailed to you.
- **Backup Tips**: For your protection, please keep a copy of your work. In case of loss, theft, or dispute over authorship, or any other eventuality, it is your exclusive responsibility to provide the original essay/analyses/cases.etc.