

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 3503 B - Equality and Discrimination
TERM: Winter 2007-08
PREREQUISITES: One of LAWS 2004 [1.0], LAWS 2005 [1.0] or LAWS 2105
CLASS: Day & Time: Wednesday at 11: 35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.
Room: 238 TB (Tory Building)
INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Parul Shah
(Contract)
CONTACT: Email: pshah2@connect.carleton.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is March 14, 2008 for April examinations. For further information, please see, http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines issues of discrimination in Canadian society and explores different ways of thinking about and responding to group-based inequalities. The 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 system in furthering/inhibiting equality and in responding to issues of discrimination.

Through academic articles and personal accounts, we will look at the history of discrimination in Canada, the meaning(s) of equality and discrimination, and present day experiences of discrimination and inequality. We will explore "the rights debates" and different theoretical approaches to the conceptualization of human rights protection. We will study human rights legislation and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and cases decided under each, looking at both their potential and their limitations.

The focus of this course is an exploration of theories, issues and cases through discussion. You are expected to have read all of the material assigned for each class and to come to class prepared to discuss it.

REQUIRED READING

Materials on Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law, compiled by D. Majury, 2006. The course pack can be purchased at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (just off Bank Street in the Glebe). The materials are not available anywhere else.

Additional required readings may be assigned and will be on reserve in the MacOdrum Library.

References:

- The *Ontario Human Rights Code*, Available on line at <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/english/code/index.shtml>
- The *Canada Human Rights Act*, available on line at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/H-6/text.html>
- The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, available on line at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/>

COURSE CALENDAR

A reading assignment schedule will be handed out separately at the beginning of the term.

EVALUATION

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|----|---|------------------------|
| 1) | Term assignments - 4 Discussion Papers
-- see below for description | 10% (2.5% each) |
| 2) | Term Paper (10-12 pages)
--details to follow, due March 19, 2008. | 45% |
| 3) | Take-home examination*
--details to follow | 45% |

Students must complete all three evaluation units in order to meet the course requirements and be eligible to pass the course.

* The exam will be handed at the last class April 2, 2008. It must be handed in to the Law Department office (C473 Loeb Building) no later than 3:00 p.m. on April 29, 2008.

4) Discussion Papers 10% (4 papers – 2.5% each)

In the discussion papers, you are to discuss and respond to the readings **and** the class discussion on a particular unit of the course materials. With the exception of chapters IV and V, each chapter of the course readings constitutes a unit for the purposes of the discussion papers. Because of their length, chapters IV and V are divided into multiple units.

NB: there is some overlap in the units in chapters IV and V and **you are not to do discussion papers on units that have overlapping readings**. For chapter IV, this means that if you do a paper on unit # five, you cannot also do a paper on either of the other units in chapter IV (unit #'s four and six). For chapter V, this means you can only do one of the two units.

<u>Units for discussion papers</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Unit one: all of chapter I	January 30
Unit two: all of chapter II	February 6
Unit three: all of chapter III	February 13
Unit four: chapter IV, pages 1 to 53	February 27
Unit five: chapter IV pages 39 to 84 <i>NB: if you do a paper on this unit you cannot do a paper on unit 4 or 6</i>	March 5
Unit six: chapter IV, pages 59 to end of chapter	March 26
Unit seven: chapter V, pages 1 to 70 <i>NB: if you do a paper on this unit, you cannot do a paper on unit 8</i>	March 26
Unit eight: chapter V, pages 41 to end of chapter	March 26
Unit nine: all of chapter VI	April 2

The discussion papers are not intended to be a summary of the readings or of the class discussions. You are expected to engage with and respond to the issues that the materials raise for you. You should try to look for themes or recurring issues within the section and discuss those as raised through the readings and classes rather than discuss each article or case separately.

Each paper should be from two to three type written pages, double spaced. The due dates have been provided above.

Late papers will be marked down one-half grade point (eg. B to B-) for each day they are late. A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation will be required to support any request for an extension.