
COURSE:	LAWS 3503B – Equality & Discrimination
TERM:	Winter 2021
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2105 <u>or</u> LAWS 2302 <u>or</u> LAWS 2502
CLASS:	Day & Time: Tuesdays (January 12 – April 13) 6:05-8:55pm* <i>*All live interactive elements will be scheduled during this timeframe</i>
	Room: All Courses in the Winter 2021 term are offered online.
	This course will be delivered via a combination of <i>pre-recorded micro-lectures, live interactive check-in sessions, and supported self-directed learning.</i>
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Philip Steiner
CONTACT:	Office Hrs: Virtually (by appointment)
	Telephone: NA [please use email]
	Email: Philip.Steiner@carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Human rights issues and law in Canada; history and present-day experiences of discrimination; critical exploration of laws effectiveness in responding to discrimination; meaning(s) of equality and discrimination; focus on Human Rights Codes - interpretation, administration, enforcement with some reference to s.15 of the Charter.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the themes of inequality, discrimination, and the structural reproduction of both in the context of:

- 1)** foundational concepts in socio-legal, political and sociological theory;
- 2)** specific historical and contemporary Canadian laws and cases; and
- 3)** social contexts in which both items **(1)** and **(2)** operate.

The course introduces students to key concepts and theoretical perspectives used to consider

issues of discrimination, equality and inequality, including but not limited to themes of: justice, race and racialization, colonialism, sex and sexual orientation, recognition, constructions of femininity and masculinity, poverty and class, as well as the intersection(ality) of each. Over the course of the term, students will explore various ways to understand and engage in socio-legal debates in the field of human rights, social justice, and equality – as well as consider the ways in which critical legal scholarship has, and can continue to, challenge, support, repute, and otherwise engage with both formal legal orders and the social norms such systems both reflect and encourage.

REQUIRED TEXTS & OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required texts for this course. Each week materials will be assigned, and students are responsible for retrieving all readings (available through the library portal or made available via the course page on cuLearn).

Students will be responsible viewing two Documentary films:

1. Anne Braden: Southern Patriot

Themes: Racism, US Civil Rights movement, Legal Reform, Social Activism, Allies

Cost: can be streamed through <https://www.seedandspark.com/> for pay-what-you-can membership

2. In Particular, barbara findlay

Themes: Canadian Charter, LGBTQ+ rights, Legal Reform

Cost: Can be rented (\$2.99) or purchased (\$5.99) from iTunes

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

The format and delivery of this course has been significantly changed to reflect the disruptions caused by the global pandemic.

The most crucial changes are that lecture materials will be delivered **asynchronously (they will be pre-recorded and made available as per the schedule on CULearn)**. There will still be some limited **synchronous** elements in the course (specifically **Check-ins, Workshops, and Office Hours**).

That said, it is important to acknowledge that taking a university course under the current exceptional circumstances will be different than taking one in person, or even the typical online delivery model. While we will all endeavor to maximize positive opportunities, there will still be foreseeable and unforeseeable challenges to overcome.

This course has been organized to provide as much flexibility as possible while still acknowledging the administrative challenges and core requirements necessary to delivery a rigorous third year university level course.

Below are a number of related concrete steps students can consider to maximize their success in this course given the exceptional circumstances:

1. Keep Up with Weekly Reading/Writing

The class structure forces you to “stay on top of” the weekly readings and small written reviews. Without the normal structure associated with a normal (or typical remote) course, there is a temptation to leave work to the end. Material in this course is both challenging and cumulative – and as such is designed to be read over a longer period of time. More than ever, it is critically important to keep up with the lectures and course materials.

2. In for a Penny, in for a Pound

The course is divided into three main requirements. Up to 30% of your final grade is determined by the submission of weekly reading reviews – which are simply the written account of your notes when you do your weekly readings. The remaining 80% is broken down across two take-home style written exams/assignments (the first being worth 30%, the second being worth 40%). Like the readings and lectures, the assignments are meant to build off one another. Doing weekly reading reviews will prepare you for your first written assignment, which in turn will provide you with feedback to tackle your final take-home exam. Students are strongly encouraged to ‘eat the elephant’ one bite at a time!

3. Don’t be shy to Ask for Help (YOU ARE NOT ALONE!)

Your TAs and I are here to help you succeed in the course. While you may feel you are “on your own” because the course is largely asynchronous and we don’t have the pleasure of seeing one another in a lecture hall or classroom every week, **you are not alone!** Again, your TAs and I want you to succeed and so you should contact us if you need to. You are also part of a “class” and you should not underestimate the value of peer support and academic community. Don’t be afraid to get to know your peers and ask (and answer) questions. This may be intimidating at first, but part of the university experience is recognizing **you are now part of a community of learning** in which we all have a shared interest in fostering understanding, disseminating knowledge, and forwarding new ideas.

4. Be open to new ideas and new ways of thinking (and communicating)

Good courses ought to challenge us to think differently about what we think we already know and/or force us to find new ways to articulate our positions or experience. Consequently, they may prompt us to reflect on ourselves, our relationships with others, and the structures of the world around us. This can sometimes be an unsettling and uncomfortable process and different people react to these challenges differently. In this class the source of these challenges may be the course materials (lectures or the readings) but they may also come through interactions with your peers. The fact that our course takes place exclusively “online” means that intention and nuance in our communication may be harder to measure. Be attentive to this fact and be “generous” in your communication with others in the class.

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and 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 Department and the Dean.

Critical Reading Reflections	30%
Written Assignment	30%
Final (Take Home) Examination	40%

Critical Reading Reflections (30%)

Each week students will be asked to complete a **2-3 page reading reflection** critically engaging with the key concepts and ideas from the assigned readings for that week. Students will be expected to demonstrate they have read and understood the assigned materials by engaging with **the key ideas/concepts** (not simply summarize the articles) from the assigned reading materials for the given week.

Critical Reading Reflections can be submitted **via cuLearn, double-spaced**, in **12pt Times New Roman font** with **standard 1" margins**, before the start of each lecture.

Reading reviews will be accepted on a pass/fail basis. Grades will be posted on cuLearn, however **papers will not be commented on week to week**. Students are, however, encouraged to bring reading reflections to meetings with the Teaching Assistant or the Instructor if they wish to discuss their writing or their understanding of a given week's assigned materials.

Over the course of the term, students may accumulate up to 30% by completing reading reflections, with each completed reading reflection providing 3%. This means students need only complete 10 reading reflections across the 13 possible weeks.

Students are strongly encouraged to keep copies of their reading reviews as study aides for their final examination. Students are also encouraged to update their own copies of such reviews, even after submitting them, to reflect any additional information/perspectives they may wish to flag for future review purposes.

Written Assignment (30%)

Students will be asked to prepare responses to provided scenarios. Each response will take the form of a short essay style paper (**5 - 7.5 pages**) which will outline an overview of the selected issue, how a critical legal approach could contribute to understanding the issue, as well as how materials already covered in class relate to the selected issue. The total assignment length (answers to both questions) will not exceed **15 pages** (excluding title page and bibliography).

Assignments are to be submitted – **via cuLearn**. Assignment instructions will be distributed Tuesday February 23rd and will be **due Tuesday March 16th**.

Final [Take Home] Examination (40%)

The final examination will take the form of a **take-home exam**. Students will prepare answers to provided questions, with answers organized in essay form - including the use of appropriate citation and bibliographic references.

Students will be asked to prepare responses to provided scenarios. Each response will take the form of a short essay style paper (**7.5 -10 pages**) which will outline an overview of the selected issue, how a critical legal approach could contribute to understanding the issue, as well as how materials already covered in class relate to the selected issue. The total exam length (answers to both questions) will not exceed **20 pages** (excluding title page and bibliography).

Students will be provided with assigned questions during **the second to last scheduled lecture** and will have **three weeks** to prepare responses. The examination questions will focus on information delivered in lectures, assigned readings, and any supplementary articles or materials provided – *additional (outside) research will only be permitted with the explicit agreement of the course instructor.*

All exams must be submitted **via cuLearn, double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard 1" margins**. The total length of the examination answers will not exceed **20 pages** (excluding bibliography and title page). Exam instructions will be distributed Tuesday April 6th and will be **due Tuesday April 20th**.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>.

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

Assignments provided late, without an extension being granted, will be subject to late penalties at a rate of %5 per day.

SCHEDULE

Lecture schedule, including assigned readings, assignment dates, as well as posted lectures and live (online) check-in sessions will be posted to cuLearn – and maintained as an evergreen document. **Students are responsible for checking the schedule on an ongoing basis – as it may be subject to change as the term progresses.**

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC): <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC): <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact The Paul Menton Centre (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC Website for their deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) <https://carleton.ca/pmc>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not

limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/studentsupport/svpolicy/>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>

Department Policy

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations: <https://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>