

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 3503B – Equality & Discrimination
TERM:	Winter - 2018
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2105 <u>or</u> LAWS 2302 <u>or</u> LAWS 2502
CLASS:	Day & Time: Mondays, 8:30am – 11:25am
	Room: Please check Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Philip Alexander Steiner
CONTACT:	Office: B442 Loeb Building (contract faculty offices)
	Office Hrs: by appointment or via email
	Email: Philip.Steiner@carleton.ca

Academic Accommodations:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Please provide 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 Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: Please provide 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 Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact 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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

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:

<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Student Services: The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at carleton.ca/csas

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.

<http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

- 1) specific historical and contemporary Canadian laws and cases;
- 2) the Canadian legal system more broadly; and
- 3) social contexts in which both 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 them all. 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, refute, and otherwise engage with both formal legal orders and the social norms such orders both reflect and encourage.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course approaches the topics of Equality and Discrimination from a critical legal scholarship perspective. While the course will involve looking at specific Canadian laws, legal cases, and jurisprudence, students will spend a significant amount of time engaging with material on relevant social and legal theory, academic analysis of related topics, and academic debates on the nature of equality, law, and justice. As such, and explicitly as part of a critical legal studies approach, this course aims to both:

- I. have students become familiar with a number of core socio-legal concepts and theoretical perspectives, historical and contemporary, as they relate to the social production and reproduction of in/equality; and

- II. help students continue to develop their abilities to critically engage with and question the underlying principles, assumptions, and consequences (intended and unintended) of those concepts.

With this in mind, at the end of the course students should be able to:

- a) understand and distinguish between the different socio-legal concepts and theoretical perspectives discussed throughout the term;
- b) apply the concepts and theories explored in the context of understanding and critically engaging in dialogue about the structural production and reproduction of different forms of discrimination in Canada, as well as the ways in which principles and practices of equality function, or do not function, in Canada's current socio-legal context; and
- c) critically consider and discuss (which is not the same as critique) the ways in which contemporary 'legal culture' in Canada reflect, support, or challenge dominant social structures of equality and discrimination.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students will be required to use the following edited collection (required reading):

Dowsett, Julie (Ed) **Gender, Race, & Canadian Law** (Fernwood Publishing, 2016)

Students are strongly advised to acquire their own copy of the required reading material (available for purchase in the *Carleton University Bookstore*).

* OTHER SECTIONS (PAST OR PRESENT) OF THIS COURSE MAY (AND DO) USE OTHER BOOKS/TEXTS - PLEASE TAKE CARE IN ENSURING YOU **ACQUIRE THE CORRECT TEXT**.*

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS & MATERIALS

Additional materials may be assigned week to week. **Students are responsible for doing all required readings, whether they are included in the required text or provided separately.** Any additional reading materials will be made available via the course page on cuLearn. Documentary films may also be shown during scheduled lectures where copies cannot be made available on cuLearn. Students are responsible for all material presented during scheduled classes. Students who are unable to attend a scheduled lecture where a documentary film is shown are responsible for finding a copy and viewing such materials on their own.

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 Dean.

Participation (Prepared & Productive)	10%
Critical Reading Reflections	15%
Assignment	30%

Final Examination	45%
Total	100%

Participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend class each week, and participate in class activities as they occur. In class learning exercises, discussion groups, and break-out sessions will make up part of several classes, and students are expected to be both present and prepared (have done the readings) to participate. Attendance will be taken during each class, or gathered through in-class activities.

Critical Reading Reflections (15%)

Each week students will be required to complete a **2-3 page reading reflection** critically engaging with the key concepts and ideas from the assigned readings for that lecture. 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 must be submitted **via cuLearn, double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard 1" margins**, before the start of each lecture. Alternative or late submissions will not be accepted unless a documented medical justification is provided.

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.

* 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.*

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).

Late submissions will be penalized **5% per day**, beginning with submissions received after the lecture in which they are due. Late assignments are to be submitted to the Law Department's drop box (outside C473 Loeb Building), and will be counted as submitted based on the date stamped on them by the department. Students are responsible for ensuring that assignments are submitted before the deadline and to the right location.

Extensions on assignments can only be granted by the course director, and will only be considered when they are **a)** requested in advance of the due date, and **b)** warranted on the basis of an acceptable circumstance supported by appropriate documentation. Generally speaking, extensions will not be granted for technology issues (printing, computer failure), transportation challenges, vacations, work schedule conflicts, or academic workload.

Final Examination (45%)

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 provided with assigned questions during the last scheduled lecture, and will have **the entire examination period** 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 as a **hard copy, typewritten, 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).

Late submissions will be penalized **5% per day**, beginning with submissions received after the lecture in which they are due. Late assignments are to be submitted to the Law Department's drop box (outside C473 Loeb Building), and will be counted as submitted based on the date stamped on them by the department. Students are responsible for ensuring that assignments are submitted before the deadline and to the right location.

Extensions on examinations can only be granted by the course director, and will only be considered when they are **a)** requested in advance of the due date, and **b)** warranted on the basis of an acceptable circumstance supported by appropriate documentation. Generally speaking, extensions will not be granted for technology issues (printing, computer failure), transportation challenges, vacations, work schedule conflicts, or academic workload.

SCHEDULED LECTURES

Students are responsible for attending all scheduled lectures, and taking the relevant notes during class. Lectures will discuss, in varying levels of detail, articles, cases and concepts from assigned readings, but will also introduce material not otherwise covered in assigned readings. Copies of lecture slides will be posted (via cuLearn) prior to each lecture, however, these such materials are meant only as an overview and do not represent all the material being discussed in class.

A copy of the class schedule will be posted and maintained on the cuLearn course page. The **class schedule is subject to change**, and students are responsible for checking the cuLearn course page on an ongoing basis to ensure they have the most up to date instructions with regards to required readings and class instructions.