

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2010-11 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 343 Pensions Law and Policy
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Freya Kodar
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2010
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Pension law and policy affects all sectors of society – the state, corporations, markets, labour, the elderly, families and individuals. Thus pension law and policy engages a number of areas of law: corporate law, labour law, family law, trust law, social welfare and tax law. This course examines the pension system within Canada – both its “private” and “public” aspects – along with the pressures on the system from factors such as an aging population, privatization and globalization.

This course aims to:

- Provide you with an understanding, in general terms, of the Canadian pension system and the regulatory scheme that governs it.
- Give you an opportunity to examine some of the competing pressures on the pension system from factors such as an aging population, privatization and globalization and to discuss law reform and policy debates in the area.

This course is structured around the following broad topics:

- i. History of Canadian Pension System & Canadian Retirement Data
- ii. Pension Coverage (including types of employment, women and care giving)
- iii. Public Pensions (including Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan)
- iv. Private Pensions (including minimum standards, funding, investment, bankruptcy)
- v. Pension Reform (perspectives on retirement & reform, BC & Alberta Joint Expert Panel on Pension Standards, Federal Reforms)
- vi. Comparative Pension Systems

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted as a seminar where we will all learn from and teach each other. While I may provide some introductory comments or provide additional context for the readings, the bulk of our time will be spent in discussion.

The success of the course depends on your willingness to critically engage with the materials and ideas in the course and to participate in classroom discussions. I expect that you will attend every class having read and thought about the materials.

EVALUATION

There is no examination in this class. Your final grade will be based on the following:

- 1) 20-25 Page Research Paper* - 70 marks
- 2) Class Presentation of Work-in-Progress - 10 marks
- 3) 3 Discussion Leads - 15 marks
- 4) Class Participation - 5 marks

* A limited number of students may, with my permission, write a longer paper to fulfill the Faculty's major paper requirement.

May 19, 2010

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is *subject to change*. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).