

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2011-12 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 359 Civil Liberties and the Charter
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Jeremy Webber
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2012
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

OBJECTIVES AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the structure, meaning and impact of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by examining a number of general questions and specific rights issues arising under the Charter. General questions considered will include the nature and legitimacy of judicial review, the limitations, scope, and consequences of Charter adjudication, the comparative strengths and weaknesses of other forms of rights protection (especially statutory bills of rights), and the consequences of these factors for the way in which rights are interpreted. Specific rights issues covered will include freedom of religion, freedom of association, economic and social rights, and substantive equality – although others too might be examined. The course seeks to familiarize students with some of the foundational theoretical and jurisprudential issues that have a large impact upon the interpretation of the Charter and its role in Canadian society. In doing so, it will, from time to time, draw upon insights obtained through comparison to other countries' constitutions.

METHODOLOGY

As much as possible, the course will be run as an advanced seminar class. I expect that we will proceed through a series of topics dealing with the issues signaled above, usually devoting one or two weeks to each of these issues. Although the precise format of each class is yet to be determined, students will be expected to have done the readings, have posted their initial observations on the moodle site, attend class, and discuss the issues raised in assigned readings.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

There will be no examination. Your grade will be based on the following:

- (1) A **research paper** of approximately 5000 to 6250 words (20 to 25 pages at 250 words per page) worth 80% of your final grade and related to one of the topics discussed in the class sessions;
- (2) **Class participation** (including attendance in class, participation in the moodle discussion forum, and classroom discussions – including the obligation to lead the occasional class discussion as assigned) worth 20% of your final grade.

A limited number of students may use their research paper to satisfy the Faculty's major paper requirement, in which case it can and must meet the length required by the Faculty for such papers (7500 words). If you wish to pursue this option, prior permission must be sought and received from me no later than the end of September.

June 15, 2011

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).