COURSE | Law 378 Equality, Human Rights, and Social Justice Law
UNIT VALUE | 1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR | Patricia Cochrane
TERM OFFERED | Spring 2019
CLASS TIMES | See schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES | Canadian Constitutional Law

OBJECTIVES AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar engages with the role of law, and legal conceptions of equality, in struggles by equity-seeking groups and individuals for social justice in Canada. Topics covered include the relationship between social movements, law and social change, Charter equality rights and strategic litigation, the institutional and jurisprudential frameworks of domestic human rights law, and critical theoretical debates concerning identity, decolonisation and anti-discrimination.

The course will employ the sustained case study of a complex equality rights case in order to explore the concept of "equality" from a wide range of theoretical, political and pedagogical perspectives.

By the end of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of the legal mechanisms for pursuing human rights and equality claims in Canada as well as some of the current challenges in each arena. Students will also have the opportunity to research and write about a social justice issue of their choice.

METHODOLOGY

The course is a seminar, requiring active class participation in every class session. Students will engage with the material through discussions, classroom exercises, presentations by students and guests, short lectures and other forms of interactive learning. Throughout the course, substantial time will be devoted to the active and reflective development of skills needed for students to engage with the course objectives in a meaningful way, including research, writing and collaboration.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Term papers of 6,500 words will count for approximately 75% of the grade for the course. Class participation will make up the remaining 25% of the grade and may include presentations, leading class discussions, and brief reflection papers.

*A limited number of students can, with my permission, write a longer paper to satisfy the Faculty’s Major Research Paper requirement.

June 2018

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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 Associate Dean (lawassoc@uvic.ca).