BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

Administrative law deals with the relationships between different branches of the state. It charts the delivery of government services and the attendant rights and interests of persons and other legal entities as recipients of those services. It is a set of principles and rules that determine how courts supervise the decisions of governmental bodies acting under (mostly) statutory powers to ensure that their dealings with their constituencies comply with the law. The course explores the various reasons courts review such decisions and also considers the varying standards of review they apply in different contexts. The course also considers administrative law in social context, examining the impact of its doctrine on issues related to systemic power imbalances. The connections between administrative and constitutional law will be highlighted. The course is a staple of public law and serves as a foundation for more specialized study in numerous other areas of public law including constitutional, immigration, labour, financial services, environmental, freedom of information, privacy, animal and human rights laws.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course strives to be responsive to various learning styles and skill sets. As such, the traditional pure lecture method will not always be followed. Instead, class time will also consist of class discussion, small group interaction, and other interactive exercises. Students should come to class fully willing to participate and are expected to try new techniques and interact with one another during non-lecture portions of the class. The course also implements the Faculty of Law’s commitments to understanding law in social context and, in particular, its relationship to social justice, by examining the principles of administrative law in relation to social, economic, political and cultural differences. The course seeks to promote critical thinking in general as well as a substantive grasp of the historical basis and contemporary principles of administrative law.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Students will conduct three shorter written assignments (namely, a Media Abstract, a Critical Reflection, and a Group Drafting Exercise) on Pass/Fail Evaluation for 30% of the course grade: These Assignments will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis where a pass is a “70” or a bare B- grade as per the Faculty’s Grading Scale. Students who do not complete any of the above assignments to a 70% standard as determined by the Instructor will have two further opportunities to complete the assignment with deadlines to be determined by the Instructor. Students who pass these components will receive a combined result of 21/30 for all of these pass/fail assignments. Students will also write a Take-home Exam, which will be comprised of an essay question(s) based on course materials and not external research. If a student achieves higher than a 70, the Take-home Exam will be worth 100% of the grade; the Take-home exam will be worth 70% if the grade on the Take-home is lower than a 70. Students will be expected to submit a take-home exam answer that is between 2250 and 2750 words long. Students may not write their Major Research Paper in this course.

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