



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2023	COURSE NO: POL 302	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Canadian Law and Politics	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Wautuh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines the relationship between government and the courts in Canada. It explores how the Canadian legal system functions within the wider political system. Comparisons are drawn between Canada's legal system and other liberal-democratic states. Core themes include the structure of the Canadian court system, how judges are selected and make decisions, the importance of judicial independence and accountability, how the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has transformed Canadian politics, and the overall effect of the courts on the quality of Canadian democracy and the rights of Indigenous peoples. Deeper questions concerning the pursuit of justice in contemporary liberal democratic societies will also be posed.

COURSE NOTE

POL 302 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Hausegger, Lori, et al. *Canadian Courts: Law, Politics and Process*. 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2015.

Dodek, Adam. *The Canadian Constitution*. 2nd ed., Dundurn Press, 2016.

Additional readings will be available on Elearn.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Articulate the core components and characteristics of Canada's legal system and how they relate to government and politics.
- Explain how the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982 have shaped the legal system over time and how they affect politics and daily life in Canada.
- Gain practical and job relevant skills by engaging in case analysis.
- Identify the key components and functions of Canada's legal system as they relate to Indigenous peoples, with emphasis on how Indigenous actors have engaged and continue to engage with the court system at the provincial and federal levels.
- Analyze current debates over the role and function of the courts in relation to the state of Canadian Democracy.
- Research, evaluate, document, and synthesize information from library, online, and media sources.
- Demonstrate an understanding and critical evaluation of the course readings.

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Analyze the impact of colonialism and racism on Indigenous peoples.
- Generate strategies for reconciling Indigenous and Canadian relations.

COURSE CONTENT

The following units will be covered in the course during the term. A detailed breakdown of reading requirements will be provided in the first week of class.

Week	Topic
1	Course Introduction: Key Concepts in Politics and Law
2	How to Think about the Law
3	The Structure of the Canadian Court System
4	How the Courts Work
5	How Judges Make Decisions
6	How Judges are Selected
7	Mid-term

Week	Topic
8	Why Judicial Independence and Accountability Matter
9	The Courts as Policy-Makers
10	The Canadian Constitution
11	The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
12	Indigenous Politics and Law
13	The State of Democracy and Justice in Canada
14-15	Final Exam Period

EVALUATION PROFILE

Participation	10%
'In the News' Short Essay	10%
Mid-term	25%
Legal Case Analysis	20%
Final Exam	35%
TOTAL	100%

Participation grades are distributed on the basis of your ability to demonstrate through class discussions a sustained and reflective engagement with course texts. It is not enough to simply show up to class. Students are expected to have completed all readings and to engage with them thoughtfully during class.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Participation

Participation grades are distributed on the basis of your ability to demonstrate through class discussions a sustained and reflective engagement with course texts. It is not enough to simply show up to class. Students are expected to have completed all readings and to engage with them thoughtfully during class.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.