

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Political Science 2313 WAN**  
**Human Rights and Civil Liberties**

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*[Please identify yourself as a student when calling]*

**Winter 2012**

**Wednesday: 7:00-10:00 p.m.**

**Room: RB 1042**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

The course studies the history of Civil Rights protections in Canada with emphasis on the Ontario Human Rights Code and Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and primarily from a legal perspective. A case book is available in the book store and contains relevant historical information and important cases for class discussion purposes.

**LECTURE ONE**      **Introduction to Civil Rights and the Canadian Legal System**

- History of "Rights" Protections
- Case Examples
- Civil Rights Groups
- The Citizen, The State and The Courts
- Case Study: Police seeking a search warrant to remove a bullet from a suspect

**LECTURE TWO**      **The Criminal Justice System and Civil Rights**

- Safeguards for Accused Persons
- Role of the Courts
- Case Study: Jehovah Witness Objection to Blood Transfusion for Child
- Case Examples

**LECTURE THREE**      **Ontario Human Rights Code**

- Study of the Code Itself
- Specific Case Examples
- e.g. - should an employer be able to refuse to hire a Sikh who cannot, for religious reasons, comply with a dress code;
- should an employer be allowed to administer drug tests or lie detector tests;
- should the Catholic School Board be able to fire a teacher who divorces and then lives common law.

**LECTURE FOUR**    **Ontario Human Rights Code** (continued)

- Case Studies including:
  - Girl Trying to Play Hockey in boy's league
  - Employer Accommodation to Religious Beliefs of Employees (re: Saturday Employment)
  - Mandatory Retirement of Fire Fighters at Age 60
  - Gay Rights vs. Freedom of the Press
  - Employment Discrimination
  - Further Study of Code (including Harassment), Handicap Rights, Racial Discrimination)
  - Pay Equity, Affirmative Action Programs, etc.

**LECTURE FIVE**

- Constitutional Approach to Civil Rights Cases by Supreme Court of Canada
- Canadian Bill of Rights and Pre-Charter Developments
- e.g. - Indian Status, Laval, Drybones, the Constitution, B.N.A., Division of Powers, etc.

**LECTURE SIX**

- Review
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (emphasis on Legal Rights)
- Case Studies
- Study of Charter,
- e.g. - S.15, Equality, recent Court Decisions, Mandatory Retirement, Cruise Missile Testing.

**LECTURE SEVEN**

- Canadian Charter (continued)
- e.g. - arbitrary detention, reverse onus, right to counsel

**LECTURE EIGHT**

- Canadian Charter (continued)
- e.g. - unreasonable search and seizure

**LECTURE NINE**

- Specific Rights Issues (Time Permitting)
- e.g. - Women's Rights, Native Rights, Abortion, etc.

**LECTURE TEN**

- Specific Issues (continued)

**LECTURE ELEVEN**

- Review

**MARKING**

Final Examination .....100%

Materials to be purchased through the bookstore. Above topics are subject to change without notice.