L A K E H E A D U N I V E R S I T Y
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political Science 2313 WA
Human Rights and Civil Liberties

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Winter 2017
Tuesday: 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Room: ATAC 1001

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.

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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.