

## POLS 2350: Law and Politics

**Credit Weighting:** 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** POLS\*1150/1400**Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Dennis Baker**Email:** bakerd@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MacKinnon 541**GENERAL DETAILS**

This course considers law as both the output of political action and as the structure in which political action occurs. To develop this understanding, students will be introduced to basic legal concepts and legal reasoning. Particular attention will be given to administrative law, contract law, and property law in addition to the more traditional political science focus on constitutional and criminal law. Students can expect to more fully appreciate the wide scope of Canadian legal phenomena and be able to better situate it within our politics and governing institutions.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

As part of this introduction, students will learn to find, read, summarize and properly cite judicial decisions using such legal research tools as QuickLaw, CanLII, and HeinOnline. These skills will be developed as students also learn how politics shapes, and is shaped by, the substance of law. In addition to these specific research skills, the more general Political Science (and Bachelor of Arts) learning outcomes of advancing your critical thinking, literacy, communication and global understanding skills will be furthered.

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

Case Summary (Assignment 1)	10%
Citing References Exercise (Assignment 2)	5%
Precedent Application Summary (Assignment 3)	15%
Researching Statutes Exercise (Assignment 4)	5%
In-class Participation	10%
Midterm Test	20%
Final Exam	35%

**REQUIRED READING**

Dennis Baker & Byron Sheldrick, Understanding Law for the Social Sciences (University of Toronto Press, 2025). Paperback (\$79.95) and E-book (\$79.95) available through the Bookstore.

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