DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Credit Weighting:** 0.5

**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 2.00 credits must be completed

**Restrictions:**

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Name:** Marc Zanoni

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**Office Location:** MACK 507

## GENERAL DETAILS

This course will consider 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. As part of this introduction, students will learn to find, read, summarize, and properly cite judicial decisions using such legal research tools as QuickLaw and HeinOnline. These skills will be developed as students also learn how politics shapes, and is shaped by, the substance of law. Particular attention will be given to administrative law, tort law, lawyers and the legal profession, 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

Political Science (and Bachelor of Arts) learning outcomes advancing your critical thinking, literacy, communication, and global understanding skills will be furthered. In addition, students will acquire legal research skills in order to more efficiently access relevant research and materials. You will also have the opportunity to learn about different legal perspectives and engage such perspectives when summarizing court decisions. Lastly, students will be introduced to certain areas of law in order to understand the main underpinnings and why each area is distinguishable. These objectives can be tied back into the main theme of the course: to understand the relationship between law and politics.

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Methods of assessment will be a combination of in-class assessments (mid-term, final), online quizzes (x2), and assignments (assignments 1-4). The final for the class is cumulative. The assignments are scaffolded so they build off of one another. Assignments 1 & 3 require students to critically engage with and summarize a legal decision, whereas assignment 2 teaches students about citing court decisions, and assignment 4 teaches students about researching statutes.

## REQUIRED READING

Reading for this course will be centered around a textbook (which will be a digital version). But there are also a series of cases, academic articles, newspaper articles, and short documentaries to augment textbook readings.