

## POLS\*3130 DE: Law, Politics, and Judicial Process

**Credit Weighting:** 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 1 of POLS\*2250,  
POLS\*2300,  
POLS\*2350**Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Dave Snow**Email:** snow@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MCKN 534 (office hours virtual)**GENERAL DETAILS**

This course is an introduction to law, politics and the judicial process in Canada. There will be an emphasis on the study of the judicial system as a branch of government and an exploration of the interaction between the judiciary, law, and the political process. The course will examine the organization of the judicial system, methods of selecting judges, judicial independence, the different actors that participate in the judicial process, and the processes by which courts hear and decide cases. The primary focus will be on public law in Canada, especially the Charter of Rights. This focus will be supplemented by comparisons with judicial processes in other countries. By the end of this course, students should be able to identify and critically evaluate the relevant political and scholarly debates, past and present, that surround law, politics, and the judicial process in Canada. Students should be familiar with the historical development of Canadian judiciary and understand its growing influence on Canadian public policy. Finally, students should be able to effectively communicate, in both oral and written form, how the judiciary, and in particular the Supreme Court of Canada, affect the way Canada is governed.

Note: The format of the course is Distance Education (DE), and will be completed in accordance with DE policies and regulations.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Describe the basic institutions and processes of the Canadian court system, with a particular focus on the Supreme Court of Canada.
2. Analyze social and political trends using various political science theories and approaches, and critically reflect on their impact on judicial decision-making.
3. Explain the growth and scope of judicial authority in Canada, emphasizing the transformative impact of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the judiciary's role compared to other governmental actors.
4. Develop and demonstrate effective written communication skills by completing two assignments that apply historical and theoretical evidence to current policies related to judges in Canada.
5. Identify and compare the different forms of judicial appointments and judicial disciplinary procedures by the federal government and Canadian provinces, and explain how these appointment and disciplinary rules have evolved over time.
6. Evaluate the influence of an increased judicial role on federalism and Indigenous rights in Canada, and assess how Indigenous rights interact with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the federal division of powers.
7. Critically assess the interactions between different governments and political parties with the judiciary, and apply this understanding to

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

Short Quizzes: 20% (5 total)

Writing Assignment 1: 25%

Writing Assignment 2: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

**REQUIRED READING**

Morton, F.L., and Dave Snow. 2024. Law, Politics, and the Judicial Process in Canada. 5th Edition. Calgary: University of Calgary Press. (\$85)