

POLS*2350
Law from a Political Science Perspective

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Department of Political Science
Fall 2019

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Course Description:

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, CanLII, HeinOnline, and the Canadian Abridgment. 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, labour law and family 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.

Course Requirements:

Case Summary (2000 words)	10%
Citing References Exercise	5%
Precedent Application Summary (1500 words)	10%
Researching Statutes Exercise	5%
Participation (via <i>TopHat</i>)	10%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	35%

Required Texts:

Neil Boyd, *Canadian Law: An Introduction* (7th edition), Nelson 2019.

This class will require students to purchase a *Top Hat* subscription. (For more information, see <https://tophat.com>).