YORK UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES 2021-22

AS/POLS 3075 3.0 Law, Justice and Jurisprudence.

Instructor: Esteve Morera

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Virtual office hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:30 am

or by appointment.

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Course description:

This course explores some fundamental issues in liberal conceptions of law and some of the criticisms of this conception. Jurisprudence is concerned with the study of the nature of legal systems and the analysis of the fundamental principles on which they are founded. It is therefore a theory with two well-defined parts: a descriptive part, outlining the nature, sociology, and history of existing systems; and an analytical part, in which the concept of law and the principles for its justification are examined. This second part is concerned not with what any particular system is like, but rather with what distinguishes law from other social institutions, as well as its links to politics and to ethics. In this course, we shall be concerned mainly with the latter, that is, with the study of the nature of law and its ethical and political justification.

The main purpose of this course is to acquire an understanding of the ethical and political conceptions that shape our understanding of law and of legal reasoning. The course focuses on the social aspects of law, and hence with questions of distributive justice generally understood.

Course readings:

POLS 3075 KIT - Available from the York Bookstore

Visit the <u>York Bookstore webpage</u> for ordering books and Kits and for the free shipping of course books/kits to students with a Canadian address. Note that, although the Bookstore processes orders quickly, it takes some time (two weeks or more) for the delivery system to get them to your home, so make sure you order books and kits as soon as possible!

Grading scheme:

Paper (Oct. 26)	30 %
Paper (Dec. 7)	40 %
Final exam	30 %

Course Learning Objectives:

- Understand the political and ethical nature of law.
- Develop skills in the analysis of abstract theories
- Evaluate critically arguments related to the nature of law and justice.
- Write cogently and clearly about social and political issue

Organization of the course:

The main purpose of our meetings will be to make sure that you achieve your academic goals. Learning is an activity that is best accomplished by actively participating in discussions, raising questions, and suggesting ways of understanding a text or solving a problem. Instructors should facilitate this activity. Current research demonstrates the importance of active learning, but this is indeed a very old idea, one that the great thinkers of the past already understood well. Read, for instance, Ibn Khaldun's excerpt from his *Muqaddimah* (KIT 3).

To that end, each session may be divided into several sections: some of them will be devoted to lectures providing background information that may be needed to understand a text or a problem, and to explicate concepts or analyze arguments; others will be devoted to group discussion, and Q&A. In between them, time will be allotted for other activities, such as studying the readings of the day and preparing questions about them, questions that will then be discussed in class. Questions are always a welcome; I encourage you to interrupt lectures with any relevant questions you may have.

Course policies:

1. Academic honesty and integrity:

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's <u>Academic Integrity module</u> at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

2. Turnitin:

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course Moodle) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as

source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

3. Late policy:

Assignments must be submitted on time. No extensions will be generally granted for papers, other than in some officially documented exceptional circumstances (illness, bereavement, disability, special needs.) Late papers will be penalized 5% per day. There are no exceptions to this rule.

4. Copy Rights:

Note that all lectures, both their content and recordings of them, are protected by copyright law:

1) the recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to duplicate, copy or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also <u>FIPPA</u>-Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31); and 3) all recordings will be destroyed after the end of classes.

Weekly readings:

1	Set.	14	Introduction to the course Readings: Senate Policiy on Academic Honesty; Ibn Khaldun (KIT 1)
2		21	Law and Morality: Natural Law and its Critics Readings: Aquinas (KIT 2); Hart (KIT 3)
3		28	Interpreting the Law; Feminist Jurisprudence Readings: Dworkin (KIT 4), Riggs v. Palmer; (KIT 5); West (KIT 6)
4	Oct.	5	Justice and Property Readings: Locke (KIT 7); Squadrito (KIT 8)
5		19	Justice and Class Readings: Marx (KIT 9); Tucker (KIT 10)
6		26	Justice and Equality Readings: Rawls (KIT 11); Gould (KIT 12) Short Paper Due
7	Nov.	2	The Charter of Rights and Equality Readings: Fredden (KIT 13); Law Society of B. C. v Andrews (KIT 14)

8		9	Women and Justice Readings: Okin (KIT 15)
9		16	Strong-Boag (KIT 16); R. V. Morgentaler (KIT 17); Nahanee (KIT 18)
10		23	Race and Justice Readings:); Dred Scott v. Standford (KIT 19); Plessy v. Ferguson (KIT 20) Mills (KIT 21), Davies (KIT 22) Christie v. The York Corporation: https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/8526/1/document.do R. v. Quong Wing, 1914: https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/9673/1/document.do
11		30	Bahdi (KIT 23); Dale Turner (KIT 24)
12	Dec.	7	Review Research Paper Due

Technical requirements for taking the course:

This course will be delivered primarily by means of video-conferencing, using the video communication app Zoom (avaiable form York). You will also need access to Mooddle (Log in using your Passport York account), and email. In addition to stable, higherspeed Internet connection, you will need a computer with webcam and microphone, or a smart device with these features.

You will be expected to participate in the course by attending virtual lectures and discussions. Although it is not strictly required, it is desirable that you appear on video in lectures, at least occasionally, and office meetings.

Useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

Student Guide to Moodle

Zoom@YorkU Best Practices

Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide

Computing for Students Website

Student Guide to eLearning at York University

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as Speedtest, that can be run.

Times and locations:

This course will be taught synchronously (via Zoom), that is, all lectures will take place at the times posted on the Registrar's Office's website.

Zoom meetings will take place on Tuesday 11:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Links to Zoom sessions will be posted on the Moodle page for this course.

Zoom lectures may be recorded, provided no one objects (if you do, let me know as soon as possible).

<u>NOTE</u>: It is important that you understand that all lectures, both their content and recordings of them, are protected by copyright law. See details under <u>Course Policies</u>.

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Course information:

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities