AP/PPAS 2200 N - Communities and Public Law
(Fall 2025) Course Outline

Course Information

Course Time & Days: 4 -7 pm – Monday
Dahdaleh Building (formerly TEL) - Room 1016.
In-Person
Course Instructor:
Michael Mamo   Email: mamom@yorku.ca
Email to schedule for virtual appointments.

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region (LA&PS Land Acknowledgement).

Course Overview

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the major public law components of the Canadian legal system. We will examine the ways in which the fundamental principles of constitutional law, administrative law and criminal law interact with and have an impact upon individuals and communities. We will focus particular attention on those individuals and communities that have historically been both vulnerable and under-represented in our legal traditions.

Students will learn about major contemporary issues in Canadian public law, including federalism and the division of powers, the role of the Courts, the criminal law and its often, unequal application to different communities, the importance of administrative tribunals and some recent challenges to the Constitution. We will also discuss the nature of the legal profession and the role it plays in helping to address access to justice issues that continue to exist within specific communities.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Have a foundational understanding of the basic principles and components of public law, their historical and theoretical origins and their purpose and significance in the Canadian context;
- Have the knowledge and skills needed to critically analyze the ways in which public law affects the life of individuals, groups, and communities in Canada;
- Be able to identify and explain notions of justice and fairness from a Canadian legal perspective;
- Be able to identify problem areas in the interactions of public law and communities in Canada and try to come up with solutions to improve rights and justice for disadvantaged communities and groups;
- Understand the basics of how to read legislation and caselaw, including knowing how to explain what precedent and stare decisis are; and,
- Have an invaluable background in public law that will be an asset if seeking to undertake further studies in law and public policy.

Course Format and Organization

This course will be run as an in-class/on-campus course and in-person attendance is mandatory. In addition to introducing and guiding discussion of the weekly assigned topics, the instructor will serve as a resource person in clarifying issues. Students will be assigned specific readings and are required to make presentations. Students are expected to read all required readings for each class and are prepared to make comments on presentation and readings (see instructions on participation and presentations below). In addition, students are to monitor media events that may be relevant to the weekly themes.

In order to facilitate class discussion and participation, students are expected to read the assigned readings beforehand.

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Technical Requirements

This is an in-person class that meets one time per week. Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., in-person, eClass, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director, as well as with one another.

Using Zoom

Students shall note the following:
- Zoom is hosted on servers in the United States and Canada. Recordings done since May 1, 2022 are stored in Canada. For more information, please refer to the notes on Zoom Privacy and Security provided by Information Security at York.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:
- Student Guide to eClass
- Zoom@YorkU Best Practices
- Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide
- University Information Technology (UIT) Student Services
- Student Guide to eLearning at York University

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as Speedtest, that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the University Information Technology (UIT) Student Services web page. For more specific assistance, please write to askit@yorku.ca.

Course Communication Plan and Office Hours

- The Course Director will communicate with students via eClass and emails/
- Students can communicate with one another (e.g., in discussion forums on eClass)
- Office hours by appointment (mamom@yorku.ca)

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Course Evaluation

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %	
Mid-Term Exam (3 hours)	Oct 20, 2025, During Class Hours - In-person	35%	
Community Exercise (Access to Justice)	October 27, 2025, before class.	35%	
Attendance & Participation:	As assigned on Schedule. Completed and submitted during class.	10%	You must regularly attend lectures, participate in discussions.
Final Exam	December 1, 2025	20%	Complete eClass Assignment
Total:		100%	

Assessment Descriptions

Midterm Exam: The midterm will take place on **October 20, 2025** during class hours and will evaluate your knowledge of the first part of the course, including concepts, readings, and class discussions. The test will include short and long answer questions about key terms and ideas.

Community Exercise: You will be required to complete this eClass assignment which will be assigned on **October 6, 2025, and due on October 27, 2025**. More details will be shared in class. Your assignment should be written in essay format (in which case it must be between 6-7 pages, single-spaced, 12-pt font, WORD format). I will post the assignment criteria on eClass.

Attendance and Participation: It is critical to attend every class regularly and, participate in discussions.

Final Exam: The midterm will take place on **December 1, 2025** during class hours and will evaluate your knowledge of the second part of the course, including concepts,

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readings, and class discussions. The test will include short and long answer questions about key terms and ideas.

Submitting Assignments
All assignments will be submitted digitally to eClass.

Grading
The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University Academic Calendar.

GRADE	GRADE POINT	PERCENT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	Failing

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How to Use Citations

Course assignments and links to appropriate citation references and guidelines should follow citation rules and practices. Here are some resources that identify what kinds of citation format students should use. For example:

- SPARK Student Papers & Academic Research Kit
- Chicago Style Overview, YorkU Libraries
- MLA Style Overview, YorkU Libraries
- APA Style Overview, YorkU Libraries
- Drop-in Research Support, YorkU Libraries
- Writing Centre

Course Schedule: Weekly Readings and Activities

Required Course Materials

Textbook (available for purchase from the York University Bookstore):
(eBook will be available for purchase)

Fairlie, John. 2021. A Brief Introduction to Law in Canada. Emond Publishing. 3rd Edition. (Approximate cost is between $$82.00 – physical book, $68.00 - ebook.

In addition to the Fairlie text, there will be additional readings available through the internet free of charge. I will either provide a link on eClass or upload a file for you to access, when possible.

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Week/Module Dates	Readings and Activities		
	Introduction **Course Outline and Expectations** **Introduction to Law in Canada and related Theories of Law:** • Fairlie, Chapter 1, "What is Law?", 'Theories of Law' • Fairlie, Chapter 2, "Common Law, Civil Law, and Indigenous Legal Systems" **Suggested:** • Georgis, Mariam, and Nicole V.T. Lugosi. "(Re)Inserting Race and Indigeneity in International Relations Theory: A Post-Colonial Approach." Global Change, Peace & Security 26, no. 1 (January 2, 2014): 71–83, https://doi.org/10.1080/14781158.2014.867845 • Napoleon, Val, and Hadley Friedland. "An Inside Job: Engaging with Indigenous Legal Traditions through Stories." McGill Law Journal / Revue de Droit de McGill 61(4) (2016): 725–754.		
Week 1 Sept 8			

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Week 2 Sept 15	**The Canadian Constitution & The Law:** • Fairlie, Chapter 4, "The Legislature and the Executive'" • Fairlie, Chapter 5, "The Judiciary: Third Branch of Government" • Supreme Court Case R. v. Gladue. 1999. • https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scccsc/en/item/1695/index.do **Suggested:** • Canada Department of Justice. Research and Statistics Division. (2017) Spotlight on Gladue: Challenges, Experiences, and Possibilities in Canada's Criminal Justice System, https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rppr/jr/gladue/gladue.pdf
Week 3 Sept 22	**Canadian Public Law and Indigenous Peoples:** • Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Tru and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp- content/uploads/2021/01/Executive_Summary_English_W eb.pd • Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Calls to Action, http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf • National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, "Executive Summary of the Final Report", online: https://www.mmiwgffada.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summar y. pdf

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Week 4 Sept 29	**The Canadian Constitution, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Civil Liberties, and Human Rights:** • Fairlie, Chapter 6, 'Civil Liberties' • Canadian Human Rights Commission, "Your Guide to Understanding the Canadian Human Rights Act", https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/publicationpdfs/chra_guide_lcdpeng.pdf • Ontario Human Rights Commission, "Your Guide to the Ontario Human Rights Code", http://www3.ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/Guide%20to%20Your%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Under%20the%20Code_2013.pdf
Week 5 October 6	**Access to Justice:** • Fairlie, Chapter 12, 'Access to Justice and Law Reform' • **The World Justice Project 2019. Global Insights on Access to Justice. Sections I Introduction and Section II contains country profiles.** Findings from the World Justice Project General Population Poll in 101 Countries. https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/docume nts/WJP-A2J-2019.pdf **Community Exercise Assigned (due October 27, 2025)**
Week 6 October 13	**Winter Reading Week – No Class**
Week 7 October 20	**In-Person - In-class Midterm Exam (3 hours).**

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	Law and Technology • Siddharth Peter de Souza, and Maximilian Spohr. 2020. Technology, Innovation and Access to Justice. Future Law Services. <u>Chapter 5</u> (The Future of Law: Technology, Innovation and Access to Justice in Legal Services Around the World). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. http://search.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2709240&site=eho st-live • M. P. Castro and T.A. Guimaraes. (2020), "Dimensions that influence the innovation process in justice organizations", Innovation & Management Review, Vol. 17 No. 2, pp. 215-231. https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.11 08/INMR-10-20180075/full/html#abstract **Community Assignment (Access to Justice) due before class (in eClass).**
Week 8 Oct 27	
	Communities & Social Justice: • Community Justice Centres – Ontario, https://www.ontario.ca/page/justice-centres • Video: Toronto Downtown East Justice Centre. July 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKOkAPv8Wm0&t= 108s • Moore, Lisa. (2023). Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ). Community Justice Services: Models from Around the World. *https://cfcj-fcjc.org/wp-content/uploads/Community-Justice-Services-Modelsfrom-Around-the-World-LisaMoore.pdf*
Week 9 Nov 3	

Week 10 **Nov 10**	**Administrative Law** • Fairlie, Chapter 9, 'Administrative Law' • Tribunals Ontario. Business Plan 2021-22, https://tribunalsontario.ca/documents/TO/Tribunals_Ontario_20212022_Annual_Report.html • Ontario Land Tribunal. (OLT Created Jan 2019). Annual Report 2021-22, https://olt.gov.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/annual-report-2021-2022.html
Week 11 **Nov 17**	*Civil Law: Private Law and Family Law* • Fairlie, Chapter 7. 'Private Law Survey: Tort, Contract Property, and Family Law' • Trevor C. W. Farrow. Civil Justice, Privatization, and Democracy. University of Toronto [Ontario] Press, 2014, <u>Ch 3 (privatization of civil courts) and Ch 6 (concerns with privatization of civil courts)</u>. eBook. https://booksscholarsportalinfo.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks3/utpress/2014-04-24/1/9781442663640#page=236 **Critical Reflection Assignment Due before class (in eClass).**
Week 12 **Nov 24**	*Criminal Law:* • Fairlie, Chapter 10, 'Criminal Law' • Palma Paciocco. "Trial Delay Caused by Discrete Systemwide Events: The Post-Jordan Era Meets the Age of COVID-19." Osgoode Hall Law Journal 57.3 (2021): 835-867 https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3607&context=ohlj **Final Exam – Review**
Week 13 **Dec 1**	**Final Exam – In Class**

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EXAMS	(CLASSES END Week of Dec 2, 2025)		

Web Resources:

Supreme Court of Canada homepage: https://www.scc-csc.ca/home-accueil/index-eng.aspx Reported Decisions of the Supreme Court 1983 to Present: https://www.scc-csc.ca/case-dossier/index-eng.aspx
Canadian Legal information Institute (a search engine for reported court cases in all Canadian jurisdictions). **https://www.canlii.org/en/**

Course Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Please also review the following course policies:

Academic Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic honesty to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic honesty 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.

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will normally be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities 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. York students may opt out of using Turnitin. If you wish to opt out, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Accessibility

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The University encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the

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term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors through their Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

Please let your instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. Sufficient notice is needed so that reasonable steps for accommodation can be discussed. Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making reasonable and appropriate accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a Religious Accommodation for Examination Form at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial thirdparty website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

For more information, see the policies on Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations, the Student Conduct and Responsibilities, and the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities.

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Netiquette for eClass and Online Learning

Students and instructors have a joint responsibility to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive learning environment. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Please review and familiarize yourself with behaviours that support "netiquette" in virtual classrooms by consulting the Guide to Netiquette and Student Guide to eLearning.

Student Notice of Recording for Online Teaching and Learning

Activities for this course involve recording, in partial fulfillment of the course learning outcomes. Images, audio, text/chat messaging that have been recorded may be used and/or made available by the University to students enrolled in the course and those supporting the course for the purpose of materials review, for assessment, etc. Recordings will be managed according to the University's Common Record Schedule and will be securely destroyed when no longer needed by the University. Your personal information is protected in accordance with York University's Guidelines on Access of Information and Protection of Privacy and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Access to online materials, including recordings or live meetings, is subject to York University's Senate Policy on Computing and Information Technology Facilities.

The University will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of the recorded information, but cannot provide a guarantee of such due to factors beyond the University's control, such as recordings being forwarded, copied, intercepted, circulated, disclosed, or stored without the University's knowledge or permission, or the introduction of malware into computer system which could potentially damage or disrupt the computer, networks, and security settings. The University is not responsible for connectivity/technical difficulties or loss of data associated with your hardware, software, or Internet connection.

By engaging in course activities that involve recording, you are consenting to the use of your appearance, image, text/chat messaging, and voice and/or likeness in the manner and under the conditions specified herein. In the case of a live stream recording, if you choose not to have your image or audio recorded, you may disable the audio and video functionality. If you choose to participate using a pseudonym instead of your real name, you must disclose the pseudonym to your instructor in advance to facilitate class participation.

You are not permitted to disclose the link to/URL of an event or an event session recording or copies of recording to anyone, for any reason. Recordings are available only to authorized individuals who have been directly provided the above instructions/link for their use. Recordings for personal use, required to facilitate your learning and preparation of personal course/lecture notes, may not be shared with others without the permission of the instructor or event coordinator, and may not be published, posted, linked to, or otherwise made available online, including on social media feeds, even if those feeds are private.

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Health and Safety

All York students and instructors share responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community while on York's campuses. Please continue to check YUBetter Together for the latest information on health and safety.

Student Support and Resources

To help you succeed academically, York University offers a wide range of resources and services. Everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance is available to fulfill our LA&PS students' needs. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- Academic Advising is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- Student Accessibility Services are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.
- The Writing Centre provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.
- ESL Open Learning Centre (OLC) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- Learning Skills Services provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.
- Learning Commons provides links to supports for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.
- Roadmap to Student Success provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal, and professional success.
- Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR) is responsible for administering the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities and provides critical incident support.
- goSAFE is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pickup hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit Student Support & Resources.

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