UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

**ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** January 2000
**REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** September 2021
**COURSE TO BE REVIEWED** (six years after UEC approval)**:** January 2027
Course outline form version: 05/18/2018

# OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

**Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.**

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|---|---|
| **Course Code and Number:** POSC 335 | **Number of Credits:** 3 Course credit policy (105) |

**Course Full Title:** Civil Liberties and the Charter in Canada
**Course Short Title:** Civil Liberties in Canada
*(Transcripts only display 30 characters. Departments may recommend a short title if one is needed. If left blank, one will be assigned.)*

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|---|---|
| **Faculty:** Faculty of Social Sciences | **Department (or program if no department):** Political Science |

**Calendar Description:**

A study of the relationship between the government and individual liberty in Canada. The focus is upon the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its interpretation by our judiciary. Examination of the issues of equality before the law, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, hate literature, and obscenity. Consideration of the rights of incarcerated individuals and the rights of individuals designated as mentally disordered.

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| **Prerequisites (or NONE):** | 45 university-level credits including POSC 110. |
| **Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):** | NONE |
| **Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):** | NONE |

**Antirequisite Courses** *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*
Former course code/number:
Cross-listed with:
Dual-listed with:
Equivalent course(s):
*(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)*

**Typical Structure of Instructional Hours**

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| Lecture/seminar hours | 30 |
| Tutorials/workshops | 15 |
| Supervised laboratory hours | |
| Experiential (field experience, practicum, internship, etc.) | |
| Supervised online activities | |
| Other contact hours: | |
| **Total hours** | **45** |

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☒ No ☐ Yes

**Special Topics** *(Double-click on boxes to select.)*
This course is offered with different topics:
☒ No ☐ Yes *(If yes, topic will be recorded when offered.)*

**Independent Study**
If offered as an Independent Study course, this course may be repeated for further credit: *(If yes, topic will be recorded.)*
☐ No ☒ Yes, repeat(s) ☐ Yes, no limit

**Transfer Credit**
Transfer credit already exists: *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*
☒ No ☐ Yes
Submit outline for (re)articulation:
☒ No ☐ Yes *(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)*

**Grading System**
☒ Letter Grades ☐ Credit/No Credit

**Maximum enrolment (for information only):** 25

**Expected Frequency of Course Offerings:**
Every 2nd or 3rd year

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Department / Program Head or Director: Fiona MacDonald** | **Date approved:** | September 11, 2020 |
| **Faculty Council approval** | **Date approved:** | September 18, 2020 |
| **Dean/Associate VP:** | **Date approved:** | September 18, 2020 |
| **Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)** | **Date of posting:** | December 18, 2020 |
| **Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval** | **Date of meeting:** | January 29, 2021 |

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze different perspectives on current debates on civil liberties in Canada.
2. Engage in critical discussion about existing civil liberties in Canada.
3. Articulate the main themes and debates with judicial interpretation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms
4. Critique existing case law related to civil liberties.
5. Prepare a critical summary of current scholarship and formulate discussion questions related to the main concepts.
6. Synthesize current literature on an issue related to civil liberties in Canada.
7. Present a case for a specific position on one of the key debates in current Canadian civil liberty politics in a formal research paper.

**Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**

☒ Yes ☐ No, PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because

**Typical Instructional Methods** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.; may vary at department's discretion.)*

Lectures, discussion seminars, class presentations.

**NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.**

**Typical Text(s) and Resource Materials** *(If more space is required, download Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

| | Author (surname, initials) | Title (article, book, journal, etc.) | Current ed. | Publisher | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Christopher P. Manfredi, | Judicial Power and The Charter | ☐ | M & S | |
| **2.** | John Stuart Mill, | On Liberty | ☐ | Penguin Books | |
| **3.** | Bayard Ressor, | The Canadian Constitution in Historical Perspective | ☐ | Prentice Hall | |
| **4.** | Peter McCormick | The End of the Charter | ☐ | University of Toronto | 2014 |
| **5.** | John Borrows | Canada's Indigenous Constitution | ☐ | University of Toronto | 2010 |
| 6. | Miriam Smith | Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada | 2nd | University of Toronto | 2014 |

**Required Additional Supplies and Materials** *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

**Typical Evaluation Methods and Weighting**

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| Final exam: | 40% | Assignments: | 15% | Field experience: | % | Portfolio: | % |
| Midterm exam: | 30% | Project: | 15% | Practicum: | % | Other: | % |
| Quizzes/tests: | % | Lab work: | % | Shop work: | % | Total: | 100% |

**Details (if necessary):** An example of student evaluation for this course might be: The procedure will vary but a typical distribution is: Take-home exam 1 30% (given out week #4; due week #5), Class presentation 15%, Case analysis 15%, Final exam (in class) 40%

**Typical Course Content and Topics**

Course content will vary, but a sample offering would be:

Week 1 Introduction to the course
Week 2 "Liberty" and positive civil rights
Week 3 Constitutional traditions and colonization
Week 4 The Canadian constitutional tradition and civil rights
Week 5 Dimensions and theories of judicial interpretation
Week 6 The structure of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Week 7 Group rights and social movements under the Charter
Week 8 Legal rights I: Fundamental justice
Week 9 Legal rights II: Procedure
Week 10 Legal rights III: Enforcement
Week 11 Equality rights: precedents and remedies
Week 12 Indigenous rights, the TRC and UNDRIP
Week 13 Application of the Charter