



**Laws 1003/5 Credit Hours/Fundamentals of Public Law Syllabus**  
Fall 2018

**Class hours,** Weldon 305  
Monday 10:00 - 11:30  
Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00

**Instructor:** Gillian MacNeil

**Office:** N/A

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Office Hours:** N/A

**Email:** G.MacNeil@dal.ca

I am happy to meet with students informally before and after class. While I do not have an office on campus, if you wish to meet with me I am happy to do so. Please contact me via email if you wish to meet and we can set up a mutually convenient time and place for our meeting.

I am also happy to answer questions and provide feedback to students via email. If you wish to email me sample answers to practice questions, I am happy to review your answers and provide feedback and suggestions both in person and via email.

I will usually provide an initial response to your email within 24 hours. If I need time to offer a more detailed response, I will let you know in my initial email and provide a likely timeline for completion.

If for any reason I must cancel a class, I will send notification as soon as possible via email and will post a notification on the course Brightspace page.

**Course Description (from calendar)**

This course provides students with an understanding of the constitutional and administrative structures of Canadian law and government. An emphasis is placed on developing the skills required of lawyers whose public law work may range from appearances before administrative tribunals, to giving advice on the formulation and articulation of policy. Primary among the emphasized skills is the ability to work with and interpret constitutional, statutory and regulatory texts. A perspective on the administrative model of decision making will also be developed. As a necessary background for the development of these skills and for the general study of law, this course introduces students to the Canadian governmental and constitutional system. Students will explore the legislative process, statutory interpretation, and the administrative system using human rights legislation as a model. Further, students will develop an understanding of the

analytical framework of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, through the study of the interpretation and development of equality rights.

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites and/or other Restrictions**

This is a mandatory first year course; there are no pre-requisites.

### **Learning Management System Site Information**

Some course materials will be posted on Brightspace. This will include power point presentations for lectures. Please check the course Brightspace page on a regular basis.

### **Required Text**

1. Craig Forcese, Adam Dodek, Philip Bryden, Peter Carver, Richard Haigh, Mary Liston, Constance MacIntosh, *Public Law: Cases, Commentary, and Analysis*, 3rd Edition (Edmond Publishing, 2015)
2. Constitution of Canada

### **Course Assessments**

There will be two exams in this course: a December exam and an April exam. The December exam will be failsafe. The December exam will be worth 30% of the student's mark. If the student's result on their April exam is better than their result on the December exam, the result of the December exam will be disregarded. The exam will be a **closed book** exam and will be written on Exam4 software. Copies of the Table of Contents and relevant legislative or constitutional provisions will be provided to students.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Evaluation</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Mid-term exam	TBA	30% (see above)
Final exam	TBA	70% or 100% (see above)

### **1. Student Requests for Accommodation**

Requests for special accommodation for reasons such as illness, injury or family emergency will require an application to the Law School Studies Committee. Such requests (for example, for assignment extensions) must be made to Associate Dean, Academic Michael Deturbide or the Director of Student Services and Engagement Dana-Lyn Mackenzie as soon as possible, before a scheduled exam or a deadline for an assignment, and will generally require documentation. Retroactive accommodation will not be provided. Please note that individual professors cannot entertain accommodation requests.

Students may request accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams due to barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*. Students who require such accommodation must make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A. Students may also contact the Advising and Access Services Centre directly at (902) 494-2836.

## 2. Plagiarism

All students must read the University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/> and the Law School policy on plagiarism <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/jd-students/academic-regulations.html>. Any paper or assignment submitted by a student at the Schulich School of Law may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the law school, or even revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. Prior to submitting any paper or other assignment, students should read and familiarize themselves with the policies referred to above and should consult with the instructor if they have any questions. Ignorance of the policies on plagiarism will not excuse any violation of those policies.

## **LECTURE RECORDING**

You are **not** permitted to record lectures. The unauthorised use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to any such recording. Exceptions may be granted in cases of private use for reason of accommodation.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Students may wish to familiarize themselves with the following services and guidelines:

\* General Academic Support – Advising Halifax:

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

\* Fair Dealing Guidelines <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>