Contact Information:
Office: #433
Telephone: 494-2798 (o); 423-2319 (h)
E-mail: d.ginn@dal.ca
Appointments: You are welcome to phone or email me to set up an appointment, or to drop by my office if the door is open

Email Communication with Students:
Emails sent to students will use their dal.ca email address and will have the re line: Law & Religion. Please read these! Students will be deemed to have received course information sent by email.

Class Time/Location: Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30, L411 (Glube Room)

Course Materials: Online, using Blackboard Learn

Focus of the Course: This course focuses on the relationship between law and religion in Canada, a secular, democratic, pluralistic, multi-faith state. Themes explored in class will include: how the secular law both protects and limits religious practice; judicial responses to conflicts between freedom of religion and other constitutional rights; and the interaction between secular and religious law. In choosing their paper topics, students are encouraged to investigate a wide range of issues relating to law and religion, and are not limited to the topics we discuss in class.

Teaching Method: This course is a seminar course and will proceed primarily by class discussion. Students are expected to come to class having read the materials and must be prepared to engage actively in class discussion. Please note that, in order to encourage discussion, laptops are not to be open during class (except if a student is using theirs during their class presentation).
Evaluation:

Major Paper: 70%  Due: Monday, December 21, 2015, 9 a.m.

- All students should meet with me to identify a suitable topic. Note: if you are struggling to find even a general topic area, you may find it helpful to consult the “Religious Institutions” Title in Halsbury’s Laws of Canada (on reserve) for an overview of the legal issues relating to religion that have arisen in Canada.
- By October 7, 2015 you must submit to me a brief written outline of your paper topic (1-2 pages) as well as a list of sources consulted to date. Outlines may be submitted electronically or to the reception office (date and time stamped). Please note that with electronic submission, the student bears the risk of any problems with transmission.
- I will then meet with each of you to discuss your outline.
- Paper topics must be approved by me. This is not meant to limit the range of topics addressed by students, but instead to ensure that students have chosen a manageable topic that involves both law and religion.
- I will read and comment on any draft papers submitted to me by the end of classes (December 4, 2015).
- Major papers must be submitted in hard copy. Students should hand papers in to the reception desk and ensure they are date and time stamped. Please note students are also required to provide an identical electronic copy of their paper to the instructor by the due date.
- All papers must be typed, in 12 font, with 1 inch margins, double-spaced, on one side only, on letter sized paper. The length of your paper (excluding appendices and bibliography) must not be less than 25 pages. Although there is no formal upper page limit, my expectation is that most papers in this course will be between 25 and 40 pages.
- Please refer to the Dalhousie Law School website for Major Paper Guidelines and the faculty regulations on late penalties.
- Please read the note below regarding plagiarism.

Class Participation: 15%

- Students are expected to come to class having read the materials and must be prepared to engage actively in class discussion.

Class Presentation: 10%

- In class on September 30, 2015, students will sign up for the date of their class presentation.
- Class presentations will be based on each student’s paper topic.
- The presentations will be held in the last 4 weeks of class.
- Presentations will be approximately 25 minutes (4 per class).
- Class presentations are not intended to be “mini-lectures”; instead, the point is to generate discussion and explore ideas for your papers.
- One week before the date of their presentation, each student email to me a 2 page summary of their paper topic, as well as three questions relating to the topic that the presenter wishes to have discussed in class. I will post on BBL.
- If two or more students have the same paper topic, it is the students’ responsibility to consult with each other to ensure that class presentations are on different aspects of the paper topic. In order to receive a good mark, a presentation must display, among other things, originality of ideas, whether
or not others in the class are doing the same topic. Similarly, if you are doing a class presentation on a topic that has already been discussed in class, you cannot simply focus on the same discussion points.

Reaction Papers: 5%

- Each student must write 2 reaction papers, each worth 2.5% (for a total of 5%).
- These are brief (2 pages, double-spaced) informal responses to the readings* for an upcoming class; these do not require any additional research. You may decide which two sets of readings you wish to respond to.
  (* “Readings” mean those provided by me, included readings provided for the classes with guest speakers. It does not include the brief summaries provided by students for their presentations. Therefore, the latest readings on which you can do a response paper are those provided for the October 21 class.)
- In the reaction papers, students must engage in a critical discussion of one or more aspects of the readings and should not simply summarize the readings.
- Asking you to respond to “one or more aspects” of the readings acknowledges that in 2 pages you are very unlikely to be able to respond to all the major points raised in all the readings for that class – instead, focus on an aspect or a theme that you particularly wish to respond to.
- Reaction papers must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the class for which the readings in question were assigned.
- Reaction papers may be submitted to the reception desk (dated and time stamped) or electronically. Please note that with electronic submission, the student bears the risk of any problems with transmission.
- I may sometimes use points from the reaction papers as the basis for discussion in class. If you do not want me to refer in class to a particular reaction paper that you write, make sure you indicate this on the reaction paper itself.
**Student Requests for Accommodation**

Requests for special accommodation for reasons such as illness, injury or personal circumstances will require an application to the Law School Studies Committee. Such requests must be made to Associate Dean Michael Deturbide or Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hughes as soon as possible, before a scheduled exam or a deadline for an assignment. **Retroactive accommodation will not be provided.** Please note that individual professors cannot entertain accommodation requests.

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or 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 494-2836, or they may contact Associate Dean Michael Deturbide or Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hughes for more information.

**Plagiarism**

All students in this course must read the University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/) website, and the Law School policy on plagiarism, as set out in the law school regulations, available online at [http://law.dal.ca/Current_Students/Course_Selection_Materials/Regulations_Handbook/index.php](http://law.dal.ca/Current_Students/Course_Selection_Materials/Regulations_Handbook/index.php)

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.**
## CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings are posted on BBL for each class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
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| Class 1, Sept 9 | INTRODUCTION TO COURSE  
• Discussion of syllabus (Please bring syllabus to class)  
• What do we mean by religion? By secularism? By pluralism? |
| Class 2, Sept 16 | PRE-CHARTER PROTECTION FOR RELIGION  
• Pre-Charter constitutional protection for religious belief and practice  
• Intro on how to write a major paper  
  o Choosing a topic  
  o Research  
  o Developing an outline |
| Class 3, Sept 23 | FREEDOM OF RELIGION  
• Constitutional protection for religious belief and practice (s. 2 of the Charter)  
  o What does freedom of religion mean?  
  o What limits on belief and practice are justifiable?  
  Guest speaker: Professor James P. Barry |
| Class 4, Sept 30 | STATE NEUTRALITY  
• How do secularism, pluralism, and the state’s duty of neutrality fit with freedom of religion?  
  ➢ Sign up for class presentations |
| Class 5, Oct 7   | BALANCING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WITHIN THE CHARTER  
• Freedom of religion and equality rights  
  Guest speaker: Professor Kevin Kindred  
  ➢ Written outline on paper topic due today (see syllabus) |
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>INTERACTION BETWEEN SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS LAW</td>
<td>• Catholic canon law; marriage courts; the sexual abuse scandal</td>
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<td>Guest speaker: Professor Rob Currie</td>
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<td>Note – readings to be posted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>INTERACTION BETWEEN SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS LAW</td>
<td>• Introduction to Jewish law</td>
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<td>Guest speaker: Rabbi David Ellis</td>
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<td>Class 8</td>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>HOW TO WRITE A MAJOR PAPER</td>
<td>• Moving from research to writing</td>
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<td>• Developing ideas and analysis</td>
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<td>• Keeping a manageable focus</td>
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<td>Please go to the law school website (you can use the link provided in the readings for class 2) and review the major paper guidelines</td>
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<td>(There will also be time in this class to discuss any questions about class presentations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Class presentations (4)</td>
<td>Note: materials for each presentation will be posted on BBL the week before the presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Class presentations (4)</td>
<td>Note: materials for each presentation will be posted on BBL the week before the presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Class presentations (4)</td>
<td>Note: materials for each presentation will be posted on BBL the week before the presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Class presentations (4)</td>
<td>Note: materials for each presentation will be posted on BBL the week before the presentation</td>
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