

**The Political Significance of the Charter**  
**POL3332F**  
**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Fall 2013**

Professor: Caroline Dick  
Time: Monday 1:30-3:20 p.m.  
Classroom: SSC 3028

Office: SSC 4088  
Email: cdick4@uwo.ca  
Office Hours: Monday 12:20-1:20 p.m.  
Tuesday 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Prerequisite(s):** Political Science 2230E or Sociology 2260A/B  
**Antirequisite(s):** The former Political Science 403F/G

**IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have **not** taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be **ineligible** for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation

**Course Description**

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* has been described as the single most important innovation of the constitutional changes of 1982 and the most radical break ever made with the Canadian constitutional and legal order, which previously had been characterized by continuity and incremental development. The *Charter* assigns the judiciary the authority and responsibility to review legislative and executive decisions to determine whether they are consistent with the protected rights and freedoms enshrined in the *Charter*. However, judicial interpretations of the *Charter*, the respective roles of Parliament and the judiciary in the political process, and Charter litigation commenced by competing social interests are subjects that evoke considerable controversy. This course will examine these controversies in assessing the political significance of the *Charter*.

**Required Readings**

The vast majority of the readings are available electronically through the library catalogue. Abbreviated versions of the Supreme Court of Canada cases that have been designated as

required readings are available in the course web site. The remainder of the readings are available in a course package that is available at the UWO bookstore. Readings included in the course package are marked with an asterisk (\*). Students are not required to do the recommended readings. However, the instructor may refer to materials from those readings in the lecture.

### **Other Sources**

*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Part I of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (U.K.), 1982, c. 11.

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/1.html>

Full text legal decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada are available electronically at:

<http://scc.lexum.org/decisia-scc-csc/scc-csc/en/nav.do>

### **Format**

This is a lecture-based course. Students are expected to attend all lectures, to do the required readings each week, and to participate in class discussions.

### **Evaluation**

There are two different ways to complete the course, and the weight assigned to assignments varies depending on how the student chooses to proceed.

#### **Option 1:**

Case Analysis or Position Paper 50% (DUE: November 25, 2013)

Final Examination 50%

#### **OR**

#### **Option 2:**

Reading Review 20% (DUE: September 30, 2013)

Case Analysis or Position Paper 40% (DUE: November 25, 2013)

Final Examination 40%

Students who do not hand in a readings assignment are presumed to have chosen Option 1. Please note that there is **no possibility** of changing to Option 2 or handing in the Reading Assignment as 'make-up' work later in the course if you are not satisfied with your course performance.

### **Written Assignments**

See instructions below.

### **Exams**

The final examination will take place during the scheduled exam period in December. The exam will consist of short answer and longer, essay questions. Students should use the lecture outlines

to guide their exam preparation. All information presented in the lecture and all required readings are examinable.

### **Email**

The Professor will respond to email and will do her best to reply within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Please do not send email messages via OWL. Do note that university policy precludes Professors from responding to email messages that were not sent from a UWO email account. Note, also, that grades may not be discussed via email.

### **Web Site**

There is a web site set up for this course, available at: <https://owl.uwo.ca>. The course syllabus and abbreviated case law materials will be posted on the web site as will important class announcements and links to turnitin.com. Accordingly, students should check the web site regularly.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES**

### **Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals\\_discipline/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html)

### **Turnitin**

All assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Submission of Assignments**

Assignments are due at the start of class (the lecture) at 1:30 p.m. Assignments may not be submitted by fax or email, outside of class time (the lecture) or while the lecture is in progress.

Assignments also must be submitted electronically to turnitin.com prior to being submitted in hard copy form at the lecture. A link to turnitin.com can be found in the course web site. Note that assignments have not been submitted “on time” unless they have been submitted in hard copy form at the lecture **with a copy of the receipt generated by turnitin.com attached.**

Students may submit their assignments to turnitin one time only. Multiple submissions are not allowed. Students may not submit their papers to turnitin using other course web sites prior to submitting their assignments in 3332. **Students who do submit 3332 assignments to turnitin using other course web sites will receive a grade of zero on the assignment.**

### **Late penalty**

Students who choose to submit the Readings Assignment must submit their completed work at the start of lecture on September 30, 2013. Because the lecture given on September 30 will essentially 'take-up' the assignment, no Reading Assignments can be accepted after the lecture has been given. In other words, no extensions are available.

Late case analyses/position papers may be handed in 1 week following the original due date with a 10% deduction. Late assignments may be submitted via email and must be submitted by **1:20 p.m.** (both via email and turnitin.com) on December 2, 2013 to be considered on time.

**Assignments that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted for grading.**

### **Extensions**

Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances, students may seek academic accommodation, as detailed below. If you fail to hand in an assignment but are pursuing academic accommodation, please advise your Professor of this fact.

### **Computer Problems**

Students are expected to back up their written work and lecture/tutorial notes. Furthermore, students will be responsible for finding replacement lecture/tutorial notes where they fail to back-up their files. Extensions are not granted for computer-related problems.

### **Academic Accommodation**

If a situation should arise where a student requires accommodation because of a medical or personal issue, the student should visit his or her faculty's Academic Counselling office so that an academic counsellor can make a recommendation for academic accommodation to the student's Professor(s).

This procedure means that you do not provide your instructor with any details of your situation. It is your responsibility to speak with a counsellor as soon as possible after an issue arises. Academic accommodation **ONLY** will be provided if you speak with an Academic Counsellor and provide them with documentation of your issue, and if the issue is brought to their attention in a timely fashion.

Academic Counselling **for the Faculty of Social Sciences** is located at SSC 2105

Telephone: 519 661-2011

Recorded information: 519 661-2052

Fax: 519 661-3384

Email: [ssaco@uwo.ca](mailto:ssaco@uwo.ca)

### **Medical Illness**

Please be aware that the policies regarding medical documentation have changed. The following is an excerpt from the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

## **Undergraduate Students (S.08-113).**

### **Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics**

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website:  
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Hard copies are available from Academic Counselling in the Faculties.

### **Documentation from Student Health Services**

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a “release of information.” This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student’s home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student’s home Faculty Academic Counselling service.

### **Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments**

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

### **Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Grade Appeals**

If you are concerned that your assignment was not graded fairly, you may ask to have your assignment reviewed. To request a review of your assignment, you must provide a 1 page statement explaining why you think your assignment was improperly graded (i.e. what do you think you did that should have been given more weight?). The explanation, the original assignment and a clean copy of the assignment, all in hard copy form, must be submitted to the Professor no later than 3 weeks after the assignment was **made available for return**.

NOTE: Students must take responsibility for picking up their marked work in a timely manner. **No appeals will be considered more than 3 weeks after the assignment/exam was made available for return.** Grades may be either **raised or lowered** on appeal.

Students who wish to appeal an examination grade should follow the same procedure noted above for assignments.

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices during exams. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones during lectures and tutorials. Laptops are permitted during lectures and tutorials only for the purpose of note taking.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar*

(<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

**"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different political science courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

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<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

### **Submission of Course Requirements**

**ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.**

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

**Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.**

### **Plagiarism**

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

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### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

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Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

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**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

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<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.