Slot 72: Tuesdays, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., BAC 206

Dr. Stephen Henderson
Office: BAC 411
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 11:30 to 12:30 and 2:00 to 5:00
Wednesdays, 4:30 to 6:30
Thursdays, 9:00 to 10:00 and 11:30 to 1

Acknowledgement

Acadia University is located in the ancestral territory of Mi’kma’ki, and this course is being offered on unceded Mi’kmaw land.

Course Description

This seminar course explores laws and punishment in Canada prior to the creation of a modern criminal code. Though civil law is considered, readings and discussions will focus on criminal law as it was understood and practiced by Canada’s First Nations, the French and British Empires, and the young nation of Canada. As much as any institution, a community’s legal principles tell us a great deal about its values and fears.

Readings

All readings for the course will be posted to ACORN. There is no text to purchase. Students must complete the assigned readings before coming to class!
# Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>Throughout the term</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article analysis</td>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>25%</td>
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## Article analysis (10%)

Select one the articles assigned for September 18th – Dickinson or White – and write a 3-page (750 to 900 words) review of it. Explain what the author was trying to do and how he went about it. Did he succeed? You must include Chicago/Turabian citations. Due by **midnight, September 28th** in the ACORN assignment folder.

## Research paper (5% + 25%)

Write a 10- to 12-page (2500 to 3000 words) essay on one of the topics suggested; you may choose a different topic in consultation with me. You will have to submit a tentative bibliography (worth 5%) **by midnight on November 9th**. More information will be provided in class. You must include Chicago/Turabian citations. The essay is due by **midnight, December 6th** in the ACORN assignment folder.

## Deadlines and Academic Integrity

Assignment due dates are indicated in the syllabus. Make-up tests and extensions will be granted only for illness or family emergencies. In all cases, documentation will be required and should be presented to the Registrar’s office. The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day, every day.

Copying someone’s ideas or words without acknowledging their source constitutes academic dishonesty and can result in severe penalties, including failure of the course. Severe penalties will also be incurred in cases where work is purchased, “shared,” or submitted to more than one instructor. To learn more about plagiarism, please take the “You Quote It, You Note It” tutorial on the library website. You may also consult pp. 50-51 of the Acadia Calendar for more details, or ask me if you have any questions.

## Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with documentation for accommodations who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Accessible Learning Services at 902-585-1823, disability.access@acadiau.ca. Accessible Learning Services is located in Rhodes Hall.
Class schedule

September 11 – Introduction: “The Terrible Power of the State” or “Why Mel Gibson was born two centuries too late”


September 18 – Aboriginal Law and Societies


September 25 – French/Continental Law


October 2 – English Law


October 9 - The Long Middle Ground


October 16 – Midterm; Bringing Law to Nova Scotia

**Optional readings:**

October 23 – Justice as Spectacle

October 30 – The Privilege of British Justice

November 6 – Penal Reform

November 20 – Women and the Law, I

November 27 – Women and the Law, II

December 4 – Race and the Law