

**Course information**

The course will be taught in classroom (in person), subject to University and Law Faculty directives and guidelines.

**Course objectives**

Introduce the legal principles and social issues related to the respect, protection and implementation of the fundamental rights and freedoms protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the provincial laws in this area, in particular the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, as well as their interpretation and application by the courts.

**Learning objectives**

- Read and analyze cases law, mainly but not exclusively from the Supreme Court of Canada
- Identify the essential elements of relevant decisions and summarize them in a clear and structured way
- Use case law to support clear, structured, relevant and persuasive arguments
- Understand social issues in terms of rights and freedoms and reflect on how the law deals with them
- Participate in the discussion forum

**Course description**

The course will mainly focus on the interpretation, application and implementation of the Canadian and Quebec Charters. The following aspects and rights will be discussed and analyzed:

- Persons and organizations subject to the Canadian and Quebec Charters;
- Freedom of expression and its limits;
- Freedom of peaceful assembly and movement;
- The rights to life, liberty and security and their limits (Right to reasonable health care; Right to die with dignity; Climate change and fundamental rights);
- The right to privacy in the context of COVID-19;
- Freedom of religion and the right to non-discrimination (Reasonable accommodation; the state's obligation of religious neutrality; Bill 21 on the wearing of religious symbols by public officials in Quebec; Freedom of religion, its scope and its limits in the public space);
- Economic and social rights (Socio-economic rights and section 7 of the Canadian Charter; Scope of socio-economic rights protected by the Quebec Charter; Right to a decent standard of living).

**Teaching and assessment methods**

- Each of the mentioned topics or decisions will be explained, summarized and analyzed by the professor and presented by one or two students.
- The professor will lead a discussion forum, in which the students will have to participate.
- The professor will hold a Q&A session of approximately 15 minutes each week. These sessions will allow students to ask questions about the material or the exercises.

**Evaluation**

- Oral presentation (15 minutes) or individual research paper (a list of topics will be proposed by the professor): 10%
- Midterm exam: 30% prejudicial
- Final exam counting for 60% of the final grade

**Main working tools**

The information and cases explained by the professor will be available online.