Course Description
This course provides a broad overview of Canadian constitutional law. We will examine:

- The history of Canadian federalism and the Canadian state;
- Indigenous peoples and the Canadian constitution;
- The division of legislative powers in matters such as criminal law, trade and commerce, property and civil rights, “peace, order and good government”; 
- The implications of this division for dealing with current issues in areas such as health and the environment;
- The law and principles governing constitutional amendment and the secession of a province;
- Constitutional language rights

Course Objectives
- Introduce students to the principles of Canadian constitutional law, with particular focus on Canadian federalism;
- Permit students to reflect critically on how this law has been developed by courts;
- Introduce students to the key forms of legal argument in constitutional division of powers cases.

Teaching Methods
Lectures, in-class exercises, discussions.

Evaluation Method
- Class participation 30%
- Mid-term assignment 30% (due February 17, 2023 by 5pm, via email)
- Final exam 40%

Class participation: Students must complete the required readings and be prepared to actively participate in the discussion. The participation mark will be based on the following:

- Mini quizzes: These will take place sometime during each class (at the beginning, middle or end). They may test the material taught during lecture and/or the material covered in assigned readings.
- Subjective assessment: based on both the quality and quantity of the student’s in-class participation throughout the semester. We will pay particular attention to
the extent to which the student demonstrates meaningful engagement with the reading materials. Students may, optionally, submit a short written reflection on the course lecture by email or on the course discussion board within 24 hours after class.

Mid-term take-home assignment: The mid-term assignment will be a short (1,250 word) assignment requiring students to reflect on the material covered in class. It is due on February 17 in class (in hard copy). Late assignments will be penalized a half letter-grade for each day late.

Final exam: The final exam will be administered during the exam period according to Faculty practices. Subject to any COVID policies, it will be a 3-hour closed-book exam, to be carried out in person.

Reading Material

• Other material as assigned.

Academic Fraud

Students are expected to uphold the University’s standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating on tests or other forms of academic fraud can result in serious sanctions, including grade penalties, suspension, and expulsion.

Students should carefully read the University’s Regulation on Academic Fraud, available at http://www.uottawa.ca/about/academic-regulation-14-other-important-information .


Services offered to students

The University’s SASS (Student Academic Success Service) offers a variety of services (http://web.sass.uottawa.ca/). Amongst others, it is host to the Academic Writing Help Centre (AWHC), (http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/), located at 110, University Private.

The Access Service provides individualized services to help students with learning disabilities. This service is also under the umbrella of the SASS (http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/access/). Students who need academic accommodations are encouraged to contact SASS as soon as possible.