

McGill University

Philosophy of Law Seminar PHIL 648 - Winter 2018

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Office Hours: 10-11 am Wednesdays or by appointment (or send questions by email)

TOPIC: DISCRIMINATION

The notion of discrimination is a cornerstone of many bills of rights and other human rights instruments, such as the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *European Convention on Human Rights*. The first part of the seminar will focus on philosophical questions raised by the notion of discrimination, such as: What is discrimination and how does it differ from differential treatment? What is the difference between direct and indirect discrimination? What makes discrimination morally wrong? Is discrimination always morally wrong? The second part of the seminar will focus on examples of unlawful discrimination such as discrimination based on race, gender, disability or sexual orientation. Readings will include selections from Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, *Born Free and Equal? A Philosophical Inquiry into the Nature of Discrimination* (OUP 2014); Benjamin Eidelson, *Discrimination and Disrespect* (OUP 2015) and Kasper Lippert Rasmussen (ed), *The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Discrimination* (Routledge 2017).

EVALUATION:

1. Attendance at and participation in the seminar including at least one presentation, 20%
2. Draft proposal (topic of your choice) of research essay and reading list, 10%
3. Final research essay (approx. 5000 words), 70%

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity/ for more information).