



Law Program

Toronto / Canada
July 2022

Law program

Course delivery:

Course content will be covered through illustrated lectures, books, virtual visits to courts, handouts, and extra tips on exploring Canada's legal culture.

Course description:

This course will introduce participants to Canada's legal system, which is a major factor in promoting stability, a low crime rate, and business development. Canada's legal system is based primarily on the English system that began developing one thousand years ago, as well as the civil law system inherited from France. After a brief overview of the English and French systems and how they were adapted to Canada, the Canadian court structure will be explained. The judicial appointment process will be reviewed, as well as the legal process in criminal, private law, and family law. The Supreme Court of Canada will be highlighted, and leading decisions of the Court on federalism and human rights will be explained. The course content will be brought to life through visits to courts, and assignments that allow students to see the legal system in action.

Instructors:

Prof. Emeritus Ian Greene (www.yorku.ca/igreene)
Bruce Preston, Retired Administrator, Federal Court of Canada, and Adjunct Professor, York University

Contact information:

info@skope.ca
igreene@yorku.ca

Prerequisites:

Minimum Intermediate English

Course schedule

Meeting 1

Wednesday, July 6, 3pm to 5:30pm

Meet: SGIC, in language school lobby. Go to designated classroom. Introductory talk on the Canadian legal system by Prof. Greene, followed by walking tour to Toronto's four main court houses which are all within a few blocks of SGIC. The functions of the various courts will be explained on the tour. You will be given a copy of *The Courts* (by Ian Greene), which describes Canada's judicial and legal system.

Assignment. (July 7)

Write a short, one-page essay comparing what you have learned about the Canadian judicial system to the judicial system in your country. Email to igreene@yorku.ca, or send via WhatsApp.

Meeting 2

Thursday, July 7, 3pm to 5:30pm

Meet: SGIC, 2nd Floor
Because of COVID, all courts in Toronto have on-line hearings as well as in-person hearings. Today, we will view on-line hearings in each level of Canada's courts. Please look at the Canadian court system chart on p. 11 of the book you were given yesterday. Prof. Greene will describe to you what is happening in each of the hearings.

Friday, July 8, Self-guided tour and assignment.

Go to [Tours - Osgoode Hall \(stgry.app\)](#). Click on "Tour of Osgoode Hall" on bottom left. Osgoode Hall is the building that houses Ontario's Court of Appeal, some sections of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and the Law Society of Ontario. It is one of Canada's most historic buildings. Send a short email to Prof. Greene at igreene@yorku.ca with your observations, or send via WhatsApp.

Meeting 3

Monday, July 11, 3pm to 5:30pm

Meet: SGIC, 2nd Floor

You will meet Prof. Bruce Preston, a long-time employee of the Canada's Federal Court. We will all proceed to a meeting room on the Federal Court in Toronto, where we will explain the history and function of this court in the Canadian judicial system. We hope to be able to meet Federal Court officials who may be present in the post-COVID period.

Monday January 11 Supreme Court of Canada Assignment

Go to [Supreme Court of Canada - Archived Webcasts \(scc-csc.ca\)](http://scc-csc.ca) . It shows four archived webcasts of Supreme Court of Canada hearings that took place in December, 2021. Click on any one of them and watch the proceedings. Send a short email to Prof. Greene at igreene@yorku.ca, with your observations, or send via WhatsApp.

Meeting 4

Tuesday, July 12, 3pm to 5:30pm

Meet: SGIC, 2nd Floor.

This is a unique period for Canadian courts, as they are starting to resume in-person hearings after nearly two years of on-line hearings during COVID. You will already have seen some on-line hearings in a previous meeting. Today, we will walk to the Ontario Court of Justice, the Superior Court of Ontario, and if time the Ontario Court of Appeal to witness court hearings that are taking place in-person. We will discuss the pros and cons of in-person hearings, compared with those that are on-line. How had COVID changed the justice system in Canada? What are the advantages? What are the problems? How does this compare to how Brazilian courts have coped with COVID restrictions?

Assignment.

There is no assignment today, as you may be busy packing to return home. However, if you wish, you can add to your last assignment comparing what you have learned about the Canadian judicial system to the judicial system in your country, taking into account what you have learned during the past two weeks. Send it to Prof. Greene via email or WhatsApp, and you will receive comments.

Grading scale and policies

No tests will be applied. Participants are expected to complete their assignments on time and to participate in at least 3 of the sessions in order to receive the certificate of completion.

Certificates

Students who successfully complete the program and participate in a minimum of 75% of classes will be given a certificate at the end of the program.

Caveat

We reserve the right to make last minute changes to the program above. Participant who miss classes are responsible for contacting SKOPE to find out about those changes.