Winter 2010

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Office Hours: By appointment.

**Required Texts** (Available in Bookstore)

- C.L. Ostberg and Matthew E. Wetstein, *Attitudinal Decisionmaking in the Supreme Court of Canada*.
- Donald R. Songer, *The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada: An Empirical Examination*.

**Description and Requirements**

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce students to recent work in political science on the Supreme Court and the Charter, as well as to discuss recent decisions in key areas of importance. Students are expected to participate actively in the seminar. Evaluation of students will be based on general seminar participation (35%), a project presentation (25%), and a research paper (40%).
Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 5: No class scheduled.

January 12: The Charter @25
Kelly and Manfredi, Contested Constitutionalism.

January 19: The Transformation of the Supreme Court
Songer, The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada.
Benjamin Alarie, “Review of The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada,” University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Legal Studies Research Series, No. 09-07 (June 2009).

January 26: Agenda Setting
Flemming, Tournament of Appeals.


February 2: Judicial Decision-Making
Ostberg and Wettstein, Attitudinal Decisionmaking in the Supreme Court of Canada.


February 9: No class scheduled.

February 16: The Charter and Democracy
Manfredi and Rush, Judging Democracy.


February 23: Study Break (no class scheduled).

March 2: Recent Cases: Expression and Religion

Alberta v. Hutterian Brethren of Wilson Colony, 2009 SCC 37


March 9: Recent Cases: Legal Rights


A.C. v. Manitoba (Director of Child and Family Services), 2009 SCC 30

March 16: Recent Cases: Social Rights


March 23: Recent Cases: Equality Rights


March 30:  Recent Cases: Language Rights


Nguyen v. Quebec (Education, Recreation and Sports), 2009 SCC 47


April 6:  Project presentations.

April 13:  Project presentations.