

Course:	LAWS 2105 C Social Justice and Human Rights
Term:	Winter 2015
Prerequisites:	One of LAWS 1000 [1.0], HUMR 1001 [1.0], PAPM 1000 [1.0], PSCI 1100 and PSCI 1200.
Class Information:	Day & Time: Thursdays, 11:35 AM – 2:25 PM Room: <b>Please check with Carleton Central for current time and room location</b>
Instructor:	Dr. Pooja Parmar
Contact Information:	Office: D483 Loeb Phone: 613-520-2600 x. 2082 Email: <a href="mailto:pooja.parmar@carleton.ca">pooja.parmar@carleton.ca</a> <b>You must use your Carleton account and use LAWS 2105-C as the subject of your email, and allow 48 hours for a response (not including weekends).</b>
Office Hours:	Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM
T.A.:	TBA
TA Office Hours:	TBA

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***Academic Accommodations***

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:  
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:  
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and

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no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### ***Plagiarism***

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence.

More information on the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** can be found at: <http://www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

### ***Department Policy***

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures.

Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations. <http://www.carleton.ca/law/student-resources/department-policies/>

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### **Course Description:**

This course offers an opportunity to critically engage with the potential and limits of human rights law in achieving social justice in local and global contexts. Our inquiries will be guided by three fundamental questions: What are human rights? What do human rights do? What does a commitment to social justice demand from us? The course begins with an examination of the concept, history, and critiques of human rights, followed by a review of key legal instruments and institutions designed for the protection of human rights, and concludes with in-depth examination of specific contemporary human rights topics.

### **Learning Objectives:**

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Critically evaluate the potential and limitations of the current system for the protection of human rights in addressing social injustice

- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary debates in the field of human rights
- Develop skills in understanding and reflecting on selected contemporary human rights issues in a local and global context.

**Required Texts:**

Michael Goodhart, ed., *Human Rights: Politics & Practice* 2nd edition (Oxford: OUP, 2013)

Additional required materials available on CU Learn.

**NOTE:** Relevant required texts must be brought to each class.

**Evaluation:**

All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Attendance & Participation	10%	Ongoing
Analytical Response Paper	20%	To be submitted by February 26.
Event Report	20%	Due on March 26
Final Exam	50%	TBA (during regular exam period)

- Week 1 (January 8): Introductions & Overview
- Week 2 (January 15): Human Rights & Social Justice
- Week 3 (January 22): Histories of Human Rights
- Week 4 (January 29): International Legal System for Protection of Human Rights
- Week 5 (February 5): Critiques of Human Rights
- Week 6 (February 12): Human Rights in Canada

February 19: No class (Winter Break)
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- Week 7 (February 26): Human Rights in Court
- Week 8 (March 5): Gender and Human Rights
- Week 9 (March 12): Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Week 10 (March 19): Environmental Rights
- Week 11 (March 26): Human Rights and Economic Globalization
- Week 12 (April 2): Review Class

Complete class schedule, list of weekly readings and course expectations available on CU Learn.