**Course Objectives & Content:**

How do systems of law understand, confront, and enable violence? We will examine international law’s relationship to violence through reading classical and contemporary texts in the theory of law. The focus is on reading classical texts against the grain to discover how they allow for practices of violence and domination that they simultaneously make invisible. What, for example, can a critical reading of Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan* tell us about the current politics of security? And what is the relationship between the classical liberalism of John Locke’s *Second Treatise* and John Stuart Mill’s *A Few Words on Non-Intervention* and contemporary slavery and colonial warfare? And how, to use another example, can appropriations of Immanuel Kant’s theory of *Perpetual Peace* be linked to contemporary justifications of war?

Although this course is set out to be theoretical and historical in its orientation, it has the goal of giving context to contemporary debates about the use of violence, the rules of war, and international law. These discussions are frequently based upon conceptual frameworks that derive from, for example, the theories of Hobbes, Locke, Mill, or Kant. The critical reading of these theories will therefore allow us to understand and question the presumptions about violence, law, the international order, and human nature that underwrite current practices of violence.

---

“Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.” With regard to accommodations for religious obligations and pregnancy, please see [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html)

---

**Note on Academic Accommodation (Students with Disabilities, Religious Obligations, Pregnancy)**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible when you find out that you’ll need some adjustments or an accommodation. I’d be happy to be flexible, but I need to know about possible concerns and conflicts well before the paper deadline, presentation date, etc.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at [http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation)
**COURSE MATERIAL:**

The course pack LAWS 4106.A is available from:


A copy of the same course pack is on reserve at the library. You make take it out to read and photocopy, but please make sure to put all items back in the same order.

Materials marked [pdf] are posted on WebCT.

The following books are recommended as background readings and as starting points for your research papers.


**EVALUATION:**

- Class presentation and participation 15%
- Three response papers: 15% each (45% combined)
- Final paper: 40%

**ALL COMPONENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO GET A PASSING GRADE.**

Class presentation and participation: This is a seminar, and we will read texts that are open to a range of interpretations and critiques. Discussions will be essential in allowing us to see and understand some of these interpretations, their background contexts, and their implications.

In order to focus and facilitate discussion, we will have short class presentations (5 min., worth 5 points). A presentation should not summarize the text. Instead, the presenter has the choice of highlighting some issues in the text that they think are interesting to discuss.

Everyone’s active participation is crucial for the success of the class. Participation is valued at 5 points and presumes, of course, that you have read the texts carefully and that you attend class.

Attendance policy: regular attendance is the key to the success in seminar classes. In this class, attendance counts for 5 points. After the first class you missed, each further class that is missed without a documented hardship leads to a 1 point deduction. (Example: If you miss two classes, you will get 4 out of 5 points for attendance.)

Critical Response Papers are short essays that offer a critical analysis of or argument about key issues from assigned readings. You choose the readings you write about in 4-5 pages (double-spaced). Response papers are due at the beginning of the class for which the reading is assigned. Papers handed in after class are late and will not be accepted (no exceptions). If you are unable to print the paper or come to class, please email the paper to me before the beginning of the class in which it is due.

The first response paper has to be submitted no later than September 25th. The second response paper is due no later than October 30th. The third response paper is due no later than November 20th. You cannot write a response paper on the same text that you are giving a presentation on.

The final paper challenges you to develop a more sustained argument in 12-15 double-spaced pages based on readings from this class and outside research. The final paper is due on December 1st. Over the course of the term, you will have to submit an initial paper topic and a paper draft. Those are mandatory but not graded. I will not mark papers from students who have not submitted paper drafts. Late final papers will not be accepted without a documented emergency.
**Schedule:**

1. Sept 4th  
   Introduction

2. Sept 11th  
   Violence, Law, and Politics

   **Readings:**

   **Recommended:**

3. Sept 18th  
   Crusade and Conquest: Early Modern Europe discusses Non-Europeans

   **Readings:**

   **Recommended:**

4. Sept 25th  
   Violence, Othering, and Victims

   **[The first critical response paper has to be submitted in or prior to the class of September 25th]**

   **Readings:**

**Recommended:**


5. Oct 2\(^{nd}\)  **Hobbes: War, the State, and the State of Nature**


**Recommended:**


7. Oct 16\(^{th}\)  **Locke: Slavery, Property, and Conquest**


8. Oct 23rd  
**Kant and Kantians: From Anti-Imperialism to the Spread of Democracy?**

[The topic for the research paper has to be submitted in or prior to the class of October 23rd]

**Readings:**  

**Recommended:**  

9. Oct 30th  
**Mill: Non-Intervention, Civilization and Empire**

[The second critical response paper has to be submitted in or prior to the class of Oct. 30th]

**Readings:**  

**Recommended:**  
10. Nov 6th  Democratic Peace and Troubles with Security


Recommended:

11. Nov 13th  International Law, Humanitarianism, and Empire

[The draft or outline of the research paper has to be submitted in or prior to the class of November 13th]

          Costas Douzinas, Human Rights and Empire: The Political Philosophy of Cosmopolitanism (New York: Routledge, 2007), 51-89. [course pack]

Recommended:

12. Nov 20th  Departures from Violence?

[The third critical response paper has to be submitted in or prior to the class of Nov. 20th.]


13. Nov 27th  T.B.A.

Don’t forget: The research paper is due on Monday, December 1st.
Note on the assignments: All assignments have to be original work by the student who is submitting them. Collaboration on assignments is not permitted. (The only possible exception to this rule in this course may be joint presentations of two or more students with the specific permission of the instructor.) In addition, students should note Carleton University's policy on instructional offences, available at www.carleton.ca/cuuc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html. Penalties for academic offences may range from a reprimand to expulsion from the university. The use of outside material without proper references is one of the most common and most easily avoidable instructional offences. Whatever language and ideas you take from other sources needs to be referenced. Make yourself familiar with different reference styles! The Carleton University library has many resources that can help you. See: www.library.carleton.ca/howdoI/citing.html.