

Carleton University

Department of Law and Legal Studies

**Course Outline**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAWS 5663F/6003F — Human Rights, Citizenship, and Global Justice
<b>TERM</b>	Fall 2017
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	None
<b>LECTURE</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time:</b> Wednesday, 8:35 to 11:25 am <b>Room:</b> Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Professor Umut Özsu
<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>Office:</b> Loeb Building D498 <b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm <b>Telephone:</b> 613-520-2600 ext. 3682 <b>Email:</b> Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca

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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:** Please 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://carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious Obligation:** Please 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://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 no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*). In order to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information, visit the Equity Services website: <http://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://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

**Student Services:** The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at: <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

**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. Please see: <http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar is organized around the close reading and collaborative analysis of a select group of “canonical” texts in the radical tradition. Each text raises foundational questions about human rights and citizenship, and each offers ambitious answers to these questions. What are human (or

natural) rights? From which sources do their advocates purport to derive their normative force and conceptual content? How did the class of entitlement claims to which we now ascribe the status of “human rights” come to arise? How have the various hierarchies and taxonomies that have been developed in order to organize the field of human rights prioritized some entitlements at the expense of others? Perhaps most importantly, what are the political and economic underpinnings and consequences of actually existing human rights projects? Similarly, how ought we to understand citizenship? What are the structural relations between modern modes of formal citizenship and earlier forms of subjecthood? How should we evaluate the rights and duties that accompany individual citizenship in light of broader claims to collective emancipation, such as those that inspire self-determination, working class, and national liberation struggles? And when all is said and done, what concrete distributions of power and wealth do modern regimes of legal citizenship presuppose and generate? These are among the many questions with which we will grapple in this seminar.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Karl Marx, “On the Jewish Question” [1843] in Karl Marx, *Early Writings* (London: Penguin, 1992) 211.

Karl Marx, “The Civil War in France” [1871] in Karl Marx, *Later Political Writings*, ed. Terrell Carver (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996) 163.

Karl Marx, “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” [1852] in Karl Marx, *Later Political Writings*, ed. Terrell Carver (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996) 31.

Rosa Luxemburg, “The National Question and Autonomy” [1908-9] in Rosa Luxemburg, *The National Question: Selected Writings*, ed. Horace B. Davis (New York: Monthly Review, 1976) 101.

Rosa Luxemburg, “There Can Be No Self-Determination Under Capitalism” [1916] in Rosa Luxemburg, *The National Question: Selected Writings*, ed. Horace B. Davis (New York: Monthly Review, 1976) 289.

C. L. R. James, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, second edition (New York: Random House, 1963 [1938]).

Angela Davis, *Women, Race, & Class* (New York: Random House, 1983 [1981]).

Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010).

Please note that multiple copies of each book are available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue, Ottawa). However, if you would prefer not to purchase them and are willing to

work with PDF documents or online versions, please note that some of them are available online. See, for example, the following links:

<https://libcom.org/library/karl-marx-early-writings>

<https://libcom.org/library/late-political-writings-karl-marx-cambridge-university-press-translations>

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1909/national-question/>

[http://www.ouleft.org/wp-content/uploads/CLR\\_James\\_The\\_Black\\_Jacobins.pdf](http://www.ouleft.org/wp-content/uploads/CLR_James_The_Black_Jacobins.pdf)

<https://archive.org/details/WomenRaceClassAngelaDavis>

## **EVALUATION**

There are four formal evaluation components to this course:

**Research paper: 50% (due 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 December 2017)**

**Presentation: 20%**

**Class participation: 20%**

**Outline of research paper: 10% (due 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 1 November 2017)**

These evaluation components operate as follows:

### **1. Research paper**

You are required to prepare a research paper. The paper must be no less than 4000 words in total (excluding notes). It must have a clear thesis, be driven by a structured argument, and provide a sustained analysis of at least one of the books, issues, debates, or questions that we have examined in the course. While you must engage with at least some of the literature that we have studied, you will, of course, be expected to conduct independent research. For detailed guidelines, including information on stylistic and structural matters, please consult the “Advice on Writing Assignments” document with which you have been provided alongside this syllabus. (This document is also available on cuLearn.)

The paper is due by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 December 2017. It must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline. Please do not submit a hard copy to the Department of Law and Legal Studies’ general office.

Do not submit the research paper late. A grade reduction of 10% will apply for every 24 hours that the paper is late. (This includes weekends.) Extensions will be accorded only under extreme circumstances, such as severe illness or death of a family member. Whenever applicable, appro-

appropriate documentation must accompany requests for extensions. Computer failure, conflicts with work schedule, or similar problems are not a valid excuse for failing to submit your paper on time.

## **2. Presentation**

You are required to deliver a fifteen- to twenty-minute-long presentation. Your presentation must relate to one of the pieces of assigned literature that we will be reading and discussing. (You will choose the piece of assigned literature on which you will be presenting during our first or second session.) You will be expected not simply to outline the text's central argument and theoretical orientation but to discuss its various strengths and weaknesses and pose questions for general class discussion.

## **3. Class participation**

Class participation will be assessed on the basis of your consistent attendance in class, your demonstrated familiarity with the assigned readings, and the frequency with which you engage in serious and sustained discussion.

This course requires a significant amount of reading—roughly one hundred pages per week. As a seminar, it also requires that you prepare for class and engage actively in discussion. If you are not prepared to complete the readings and participate in class discussion, you should not take the course.

## **4. Outline of research paper**

You are required to prepare an outline of the research paper that you intend to submit in this course. There is no strict word count for the outline; it must be at least 1000 words (excluding notes and bibliography), but you may use as many words as you wish. I will provide extensive feedback on this outline in order to assist you with the research paper.

The outline is due by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 1 November 2017. It must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline. Please do not submit a hard copy to the Department of Law and Legal Studies' general office.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE**

Please note that there will be *no* “make-up” or “grade-booster” assignments under any circumstances. Deferrals are granted by the Registrar's Office.

Please also note that 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 Department and the Dean.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The primary means of communication outside of class will be cuLearn. However, I am always happy to answer any questions you may have or to discuss your research and writing. If you would like to talk to me in person, please stop by my office during office hours. If you would like to communicate via email, please note that I make every effort to respond to email queries within 48 hours.

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### **SCHEDULE**

#### **Session I [6 September 2017]**

[No readings.]

#### **Session II [13 September 2017]**

Marx, “Jewish Question”; Marx, “Civil War in France”

#### **Session III [20 September 2017]**

Marx, “Eighteenth Brumaire”

#### **Session IV [27 September 2017]**

Luxemburg, “National Question”, chs. 1, 2, and 3

#### **Session V [4 October 2017]**

Luxemburg, “National Question”, chs. 4 and 5; Luxemburg, “No Self-Determination Under Capitalism”

#### **Session VI [11 October 2017]**

James, *Black Jacobins*, chs. 1, 2, 3, and 4

#### **Session VII [18 October 2017]**

James, *Black Jacobins*, chs. 5, 6, 7, and 8

**[Due to the fall break, no class will be held on 25 October 2017.]**

**Session VIII [1 November 2017]**

James, *Black Jacobins*, chs. 9, 10, 11, and 12

**Session IX [8 November 2017]**

James, *Black Jacobins*, ch. 13; Davis, *Women, Race, & Class*, ch. 1

**Session X [15 November 2017]**

Davis, *Women, Race, & Class*, chs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

**Session XI [22 November 2017]**

Davis, *Women, Race, & Class*, chs. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

**Session XII [29 November 2017]**

Moyn, *Last Utopia*, prologue and chs. 1, 2, and 3

**Session XIII [6 December 2017]**

Moyn, *Last Utopia*, chs. 4, 5, and epilogue