

Course Outline/Syllabus

Course: LAWS 2105A – Social Justice and Human Rights

CRN: 33784

Term: Fall 2023

Class: Wednesdays, 08:35 am to 11:25 am

Classroom: The lectures will be online. Live lectures will be conducted on zoom and recorded lectures will be posted on Brightspace.

Instructor: Diksha Kale (dikshakale@cunet.carleton.ca)

Teaching Assistants: Alexa Hajjar (alexahajjar@cmail.carleton.ca) and Danika Brown (danikabrown3@cmail.carleton.ca)

Office Hours: By appointment only

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theories and practices of law and social justice. Issues examined may include: civil democracy and repression; global governance and the rule of law; democratic movements and social power; human rights instruments, regimes and remedies; armed conflict; and humanitarian intervention.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students understand and critically examine issues of human rights and social justice at the national and international levels. We will be discussing and learning about different theories and perspectives on human rights and law, as well as the evolving nature of social justice and human rights in today's age. We will interrogate the concepts of social justice and human rights in connection with historical and cultural perspectives on race, gender, sexuality, disability, colonialism, and technology. This course engages with critical scholarship and some complex texts. Students enrolled in the course are encouraged to finish reading the week's assigned texts before watching the recorded lecture or participating in the live lecture.

After completing this course, students will be able to acknowledge and understand different perspectives on human rights and social justice. They will be able to identify the connections that exist between these issues and the law. My goal as an instructor is to ensure that students are better equipped to engage with and produce academic and scholarly writings on this topic after completing this course.

Most of the lectures will be recorded, but there will be a live lecture once a month on zoom. The zoom link for live lectures will be posted on Brightspace and sent to the students enrolled in this class on their CU email. The recordings of the live lectures will be posted on Brightspace as well. Attendance for the live lectures is not mandatory, but it is encouraged.

EVALUATION

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.

Assignment	Description	Due Date	Weightage
Final Exam	30 Multiple Choice Questions based on the required readings	TBD	30%
Ten Weekly Reflections	250-500 word reflection based on that week's readings	Every Tuesday before 5:00 pm	40%
Literature Review	1500-2000 word literature review on a topic relevant to the course	November 24, 2023	30%

ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Reflections (40% of the final grade)

A weekly reflection must demonstrate critical engagement with that week's readings and discussions. It must be argumentative i.e., it must have an underlying question related to that week's readings. Weekly reflections are not meant to be summaries or commentaries on the class readings. They are an opportunity for you to demonstrate your critical thinking skills, your curiosity on the subject, and your ability to pose insightful questions on the subject. Each weekly reflection must be between **250-500 words**. You are encouraged to use a uniform citation method for the weekly reflections (which will be good practice for when you write your literature review assignment), but it is not a requirement. You are encouraged to write your weekly reflection assignment after class every week. The reflection will be assessed on the following criteria.

Critical analysis of the readings = 1

Analytical question connected to the readings = 1

Flow of writing and arguments = 1

Grammar, punctuation, spelling mistakes etc. = 1

Deadline: **The weekly reflection assignment for the previous week is due every Tuesday before 5:00 pm on brightspace.** For example, the weekly reflection for the class on Wednesday, September 13 is due on Tuesday, September 19 before 5:00 pm. **All ten weekly reflection assignments must be submitted on Brightspace before December 6, 2023.** It is your responsibility to communicate with your TA before December 6 and ensure that you have submitted all ten of these reflections.

Literature Review (30% of the final grade)

You must write a literature review that cites **at least five academic sources and is between 1500 to 2000 words (footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography excluded)**. For this assignment, you must choose a topic relevant to the course and demonstrate your critical reading and critical analysis skills by writing a literature review that sums up the existing major arguments for your topic and identifies the existing gaps in the literature. The literature review does not require you to make an original argument. You **must use a uniform citation method** throughout this assignment when citing your sources e.g. APA, MLA, McGill, Chicago etc.

This is a useful resource for understanding how to write critical literature reviews:
https://sociology.fas.harvard.edu/files/sociology/files/literature_review.pdf.

The MacOdrum Library website has excellent resources on how to use citation guides, which can be found here: <https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/citing-your-sources>.

Assignment Evaluation:

Use of five academic sources = 10 marks (2 marks for each source)

Critical analysis = 5 marks

Coherence and flow of arguments = 5 marks

Uniform citation method = 5 marks (-0.5 for each mistake)

Grammar, punctuation, spelling = 5 marks (-0.5 for each mistake)

Deadline: The literature review assignments are **due by 5:00 pm on November 24, 2023.**

Final Exam (30% of the final grade)

The final exam will consist of **thirty multiple choice questions (1 mark for each)**. The questions will be based on the readings listed in the course outline. The exam will be conducted on Brightspace and you will have **two hours** to finish it once you begin.

Date of exam: TBD

GRIEVANCES

Students who are not satisfied with the grades assigned to them by the respective TA must contact the instructor via email and CC the TA in the email to ask for a re-evaluation of their assignment. **Students must use their Carleton University email for communicating with the instructor and the TA.** Re-evaluation of your assignment does not guarantee a higher grade and may also result in a lower grade based on the quality of your assignment and the evaluation by your instructor. If the student has any concerns or complaints about the course or the instructor, they can write an email to the Department of Law & Legal Studies at law@carleton.ca.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

If you are struggling to understand the readings or to finish your assignments on time despite your best efforts, please reach out to your TA or the instructor. We are here to help you succeed and to achieve your goals for this course.

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor **prior to the assignment due date:**

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>.

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are requested, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days). Late assignments will only be accepted in consultation with the TAs and the instructor. As soon as you know that you will not be able to turn in an assignment on time, please contact your TA. All other late assignments will be assessed a standard late penalty of 5% per day.

Note: All assignments should be submitted via Brightspace. It is your responsibility to upload assignments before the deadline, keeping in mind that technical issues (if any) may delay your submission. The submissions must be in readable formats that are compatible with the Brightspace system. The preferred format for submissions is .docx (Word).

SCHEDULE

Week 1 | September 6: Introduction to Social Justice and Human Rights

Syllabus review, no readings

Week 2 | September 13: The Nature of Human Rights

Hunt, Lynn (2007) 'Introduction'

The three Declarations in Hunt's Appendix, pgs. 215-229

Week 3 | September 20: Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Rights

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. "Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume One: Summary", pgs. 1-22

"An Introduction to Healing in an Age of Indigenous Human Rights" in Million, Dian. *Therapeutic nations: Healing in an age of Indigenous human rights*. University of Arizona Press, 2013 (pgs. 1-32).

"The Choice to Be a Mother, to Raise and Protect My Child Is the Revolution" | *The Climate Baby Dilemma*. 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2112642115764>.

Week 4 | September 27: Human Rights and Colonization

“On Violence” in Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. 1961.

Ambedkar, Babasaheb. 1979. “In the Plenary Session.” In *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, 2:503–509. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.

<https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/CPV/Volume2.pdf>.

Week 5 | October 4: Human Rights and Race

Democracy Now!, dir. 2017. *Journalist Desmond Cole on How the Toronto Star Tried to Silence His Activism for Black Liberation*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1Jmu0EO100>.

Man, Simeon. 2020. “Anti-Asian Violence and US Imperialism.” *Race & Class* 62 (2): 24–33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306396820949779>.

Fine, Sarah. 2016. “Immigration and Discrimination.” In *Migration in Political Theory: The Ethics of Movement and Membership*, edited by Sarah Fine and Lea Ypi, 125–150. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199676606.003.0007>.

Week 6 | October 11: Human Rights in the International Context

Amnesty International. 2023. “International Systems Unfit to Deal with Global Crises.” Amnesty International. March 27, 2023.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/international-system-unfit-to-deal-with-global-crises-annual-report-2022/>.

Noah, Trevor. 2016. “Chapter 2: Born a Crime.” In *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. Random House Publishing Group.

Wolff, Noga. 2020. “Severing a Historical Bond: The Implications of Divorcing Human Rights from Holocaust Education.” *Holocaust Studies* 26 (3): 306–328.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17504902.2019.1581493>.

Week 7 | October 18: Discrimination and Human Rights

Mncwabe, Sammy. 2023. “World Athletics Regulations on Transgender Women Athletes Risk Human Rights Violations, Rights Groups Say.” CNN. March 24, 2023.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/24/sport/world-athletics-transgender-athlete-regulations-reaction-spt-intl/index.html>.

Davis, Angela Y. 1983. "Class and Race in the Early Women's Rights Campaign." In *Women, Race & Class*, 46–69. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group.

United Nations. 1975. "Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons."

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-rights-disabled-persons>.

Week 8 | October 25: Fall Break

No class

Week 9 | November 1: Law and Human Rights

"A Guide to Understanding the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal." 2023, pgs. 1-16.

<https://www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca/resources/guide-to-understanding-the-chrt-en.html>.

Case law: *N.B v. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board*

Week 10 | November 8: The Nature of Social Justice Movements

Nussbaum, Martha C. 2011. "The Central Capabilities." In *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*, 17–45. Harvard University Press.

Islam, Frank, and Ed Crego. 2023. "The Supreme Court's Confirmative, Retrograde, and Disruptive Action." *Medium* (blog). July 20, 2023.

<https://21stcenturycivics.medium.com/the-supreme-courts-confirmative-retrograde-and-disruptive-action-371822cf44f0>.

Week 11 | November 15: Social Justice in the New Age

Chartrand, Vicki. 2021. "Abolition in the Land Known as Canada in the Wake of COVID-19." *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* 33 (1): 138–143.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10345329.2020.1853218>.

McNutt, John G. "Advocacy, Social Change, and Activism." In *Technology, Activism, and Social Justice in a Digital Age*, 9–21. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Shao, Grace. 2019. "Social Media Has Become a Battleground in Hong Kong's Protests." CNBC. August 15, 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/16/social-media-has-become-a-battleground-in-hong-kongs-protests.html>.

Week 12 | November 22: The Role of Human Rights in Social Justice

Young, Iris Marion. "Five Faces of Oppression." In *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, 39–65. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Brei, Andrew T. 2013. "Rights & Nature." *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 26 (2): 393–408. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10806-012-9385-z>.

TIME, dir. 2022. *Women of Iran: TIME Heroes of the Year 2022*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxV5U6JJlqk>.

Week 13 | November 29: The Paradoxes of Human Rights

Sen, Amartya. 2005. "Human Rights and the Limits of Law Lecture." *Cardozo Law Review* 27 (6): 2913–28.

David, Lawrence. 2014. "A Principled Approach to the Positive/Negative Rights Debate in Canadian Constitutional Adjudication." *Constitutional Forum* 23 (1): 41–46.

Spade, Dean. 2015. "What's Wrong with Rights?" In *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law*, 38–49. Duke University Press.

Week 14 | December 6: Review of the Course

No readings

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

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: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form.

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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>.

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 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 October 4, 2023. 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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.