

## Course Outline

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<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 2105 C – Social Justice and Human Rights</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2024</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>1.0 credit from LAWS 1001, LAWS 1002, or HRSJ 1001 [1.0], or PAMP 1001 and PSCI 2003</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Thursdays 14:35 – 17:25</b> <b>Room: Online</b>
	This course will be delivered using a combination of asynchronous learning activities and live (synchronous) sessions held on Zoom.
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>Deniz Pinar Konuk</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office Hrs: By appointment (Zoom)</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:denizkonuk@cunet.carleton.ca">denizkonuk@cunet.carleton.ca</a></b>

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### **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 explores how people in different times and places have enacted the ideals of justice. From international legal frameworks for human rights to grassroots political organizations and social movements, this course offers an overview of some of the key debates and events that have shaped the current notions of rights, justice, and equality. There will be three sections. Students will engage with critical scholarship to think through different historical accounts of human rights and humanitarianism (*Section 1*), limitations of right discourses and universalist approaches (*Section 2*), and collective struggles for social justice and alternative imaginations for the future (*Section 3*). Some of the issues we will discuss include promises of human rights declarations; Western humanitarianism; the war on terror; the “refugee crisis”; settler colonialism; political movements challenging race, class, and gender inequalities; police violence; open-source technologies of investigation; degrowth and climate justice; and mass incarceration.

This is a reading and writing-intensive course with weekly live sessions. There will be an asynchronous portion of the course with pre-recorded lectures that will be uploaded on Brightspace. In this second-year course, students will begin to develop necessary research and writing skills by practicing close reading, analytical writing, and critical engagement with the materials. There will also be “in-class” activities and discussions in the live sessions. Students are expected to participate actively in these discussions and activities throughout the course.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the key debates that have shaped current practices of human rights and the notions of social justice
- Identify different meanings of ‘rights’ and ‘social justice’ in different historical and social contexts
- Identify and explain concrete examples/case studies and their links to abstract ideas of rights and social justice
- Analyze the assumptions and limitations of idealistic notions of human rights
- Critique and assess arguments made by scholars and activists
- Describe and explain how new ideas emerging from the class materials challenge their own understanding of an idea related to the rights and justice

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Gina Starblanket and Dallas Hunt, *Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial* (ARP, 2020).

Note: library e-book available and hard copy is \$15 at Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., Ottawa

***\*\*All other course materials will be posted on Brightspace\*\****

### **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.

### **COURSE COMPONENTS**

1. Short Reading Reflections (6): 30%
2. Live sessions: Attendance + Contribution (10): 10%
3. Book Analysis: 25%
4. Take Home Final: Academic Blog Post / Podcast: 35%

*Short Reading Reflections (30%)*

Reading is extremely important in this course and as such, students are expected to do all of the weekly required readings BEFORE each class. To help encourage weekly reading and develop critical writing skills,

students are required to write **6 short reflections**. Students may select any 6 weeks to write their reflection, excluding week 1, week 6, week 7 and week 12. The reflections should demonstrate critical engagement with the readings and materials of that specific week. They must be argumentative meaning they should have an underlying question related to that week's readings and other materials. These reflections are not intended to be summaries or reviews. They provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their critical thinking skills, express their curiosity about the subject, and show their ability to pose insightful questions. Each reflection should be **350-500 words** and is **due before each live session**.

#### *Live Sessions – Attendance & Contributions (10%)*

Throughout the course, students are expected to participate in regular live sessions over Zoom. Students **may miss/skip up to 3 live sessions** without penalty. Because a portion of content will be delivered asynchronously, only part of the scheduled class time will be utilized for synchronous zoom sessions, which will run from **2:35-4:15 pm**. These interactive sessions will incorporate a mix of Q&A, lectures, case studies, and small-group discussions in breakout rooms. At the end of certain sessions, students may be required to write posts on the Brightspace discussion forum.

#### *Book Analysis (25%)*

Students are required to read *Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial* by Dallas Hunt & Gina Starblanket and write a critical paper that analyses the authors' argument and how it relates to human rights and social justice issues. The analysis should be **1500-2000 words** and should follow the instructions outlined in the assignment sheet (instructions will be posted). Book analysis papers will be due on **February 28**.

#### *Take Home Final: Academic Blog Post OR Podcast (35%)*

To help students connect and apply what they learn about social justice and human rights to our contemporary world, they will be required to **write an academic blog post OR record a podcast** on a topic they choose. The topic should fit within the themes of the course. Students will do research and produce a concise blog post or a podcast episode catered to an academic audience relevant to the course materials and social justice issues covered in class. Detailed instructions will be posted on Brightspace.

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

### **LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS**

#### *Late Penalties*

Assignments will be penalized as follows:

- Deduction of 3% marks per day of delay in handing the assignment after the due date
- There will be no extensions for quizzes

#### *Extensions*

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 granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1 | January 11: Introduction - Studying Rights and Justice**

Syllabus

#### **Section 1: HISTORIES**

### **Week 2 | January 18: The Political Language of Human Rights**

Hunt, Lynn (2007) 'Introduction' and 'They Have Set a Great Example: Declaring Rights' in *Inventing Human Rights*, pgs. 15-34; 113-145

Look over: the three Declarations in Hunt's Appendix, pgs. 215-229

### **Week 3 | January 25: From Humanism to Humanitarianism**

Douzinas, Costas (2007) 'End of Human rights?' in *Human Rights and Empire: The Political Philosophy of Cosmopolitanism*, pgs. 3-33

### **Week 4 | February 1: Silenced Histories**

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph (1995) 'An Unthinkable History: The Haitian Revolution as a Non-event' in *Silencing the Past: Power and Production of History*, pgs. 70-108

#### **Section 2: COURTS AND STATES**

### **Week 5 | February 8: Rights, Nation, and the State(lessness)**

Benhabib, Seyla (2004) 'The Right to Have Rights: Hannah Arendt on the contradictions of the nation-state' in *The Rights of Others: Aliens, Residents and Citizens*. New York; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pgs. 49-69

Motha, Stewart. *The Redundant Refugee*. November 6, 2015 (Critical Legal Thinking) (<http://criticallegalthinking.com/2015/11/06/the-redundant-refugee/>)

### **Week 6 | February 15: Settler-Colonial Narratives in Courts**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. "Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission of Canada, Volume One: Summary”, pgs. 1-24

Starblanket, Gina & Dallas Hunt (2020) *Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial*, ARP Books (Introduction, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2)

**Reading week | No class on February 22**

**Week 7 | February 29: The Limits of Rights (I): Indigenous Justice**

Starblanket, Gina & Dallas Hunt (2020) *Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial*, ARP Books (Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Conclusion)

Look over: “Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper (Executive Summary)”  
<https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/community-tools-resources/>

**Week 8 | March 7: The Limits of Rights (II): Class, Race, Gender, and Queer Politics**

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

Spade, Dean (2015) “What’s Wrong with Rights?” in *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pgs. 38-49.

Suggested:

Brown, Wendy (2002) ‘Suffering the Paradoxes of Rights’ in *Left Legalism/Left Critique*, pgs. 420-434

### Section 3: COMMONS

**Week 9 | March 14: Protest, Visibility, and the Politics of the Street**

Mirzoeff, Nicolas (2019) ‘Persistent looking in the space of appearance #BlackLivesMatter’ in *Cultures, Citizenship and Human Rights* Routledge, pgs. 11- 30 **similar version is available online:** (2018) *Tactics of Appearance for Abolition Democracy #BlackLivesMatter*  
[https://criticalinquiry.uchicago.edu/tactics\\_of\\_appearance/](https://criticalinquiry.uchicago.edu/tactics_of_appearance/)

L (2022) Figuring a Women’s Revolution: Bodies Interacting with their Images. October 5, 2022 (Jadaliyya)  
<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/44479>

Suggested:

Butler, Judith (2015). Bodies in Alliance and the Politics of the Street in *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly* Harvard University Press, pgs. 64-98

**similar version is available online:** (2011) Bodies in Alliance and the Politics of the Street [Internet]. *Online unter: [http:// www. eipcp. net/ transversal, 1011.](http://www.eipcp.net/transversal,1011)*

**Week 10 | March 21: Art and Technologies of Human Rights Investigations**

Weizman, Eyal (2010) 'Forensic architecture: Only the criminal can solve the crime', *Radical Philosophy* 164, Nov/Dec 2010, pgs. 9-24

Weizman, Eyal (2017) 'Introduction: At the Threshold of Detectability' in *Forensic Architecture: Violence at the Threshold of Detectability* New York; Zone Books, pgs. 13-47

Look over:

- Earshot: Sonic investigations for communities affected by corporate, state, and environmental injustice, <https://earshot.ngo/>
- Forensic Architecture, <https://forensic-architecture.org/>
- Rabih Mroué's Pixelated Revolution, <https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/905>
- SITU Research, <https://situ.nyc/research>

*Suggested:*

Fuller, Matthew & Eyal Weizman (2021) *Investigative aesthetics: conflicts and commons in the politics of truth*: Introduction, pgs. 8-36

**Week 11 | March 28: Collective Struggles in the Neoliberal Times**

Listen: Growth, Degrowth, Agrowth. The Ecopolitics Podcast EPISODE 2.11  
<https://www.ecopoliticspodcast.ca/episode-2-11-growth-degrowth-agrowth/>

Listen: Ruth Wilson Gilmore Makes the Case for Abolition. June 10, 2020, Intercepted Podcast Series  
<https://theintercept.com/2020/06/10/ruth-wilson-gilmore-makes-the-case-for-abolition/>

**Week 12 | April 4: Review**

No required reading

<b>Winter 2024 Sessional Dates and University Closures</b>	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website: <a href="https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/">https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/</a></i>	
<b>January 8, 2024</b>	Winter term begins.
<b>January 19, 2024</b>	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
<b>January 31, 2024</b>	Last day to withdraw from full winter and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
<b>February 19, 2024</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>February 19-23, 2024</b>	Winter break. No classes.
<b>March 15, 2024</b>	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
<b>March 27, 2024</b>	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
<b>March 29, 2024</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>April 10, 2024</b>	Winter term ends.
	Last day of full winter, late winter and fall/winter term classes.
	Classes follow a Friday schedule (full winter and later winter courses).
	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for full winter term and late winter courses.
	Last day for take home examinations to be assigned.
<b>April 13-25, 2024</b>	Final examinations in full winter, late winter and fall/winter term courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
<b>April 25, 2024</b>	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

## **University and Departmental Policies**

### **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**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This 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, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### **STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH**

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you.

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **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 about the accommodation policy, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities \(EIC\)](#) website.

**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, please go to: <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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

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). 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/>.