

Carleton University

Department of Law and Legal Studies

**Course Outline**

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**COURSE:** LAWS 2105 D – Social Justice and Human Rights**TERM:** Winter 2022**PREREQUISITES:** 1.0 creditfrom [LAWS 1001](#), [LAWS 1002](#), [PSCI 1100](#), [PSCI 1200](#) or [HUMR 1001](#) [1.0] or PAPM 1000 [1.0]**CLASS:** Day & Time: Mondays, 11:35AM-2:25PM EST  
Room: Online via Zoom (see Brightspace for link)**INSTRUCTOR:** Atiya Husain**CONTACT:** Office Hours: By Appointment  
<https://atiya-husain-ofc-hrs.youcanbook.me>  
Email: [atiyahusain@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:atiyahusain@cunet.carleton.ca)

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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 approaches questions of human rights and social justice: what is the human? What historical, intellectual developments underlie human rights? How has human rights discourse been engaged, rejected, and transformed by various political movements? Themes of the course include colonialism, secularism, race, religion, and political violence.

Synchronous Course: This course is a real-time, online course where the instructor and students meet via web conferencing tools, at scheduled days and times. Instructors and students share information, ideas and learning experiences in a virtual course environment. Participation in synchronous courses requires students to have reliable,

high-speed internet access, a computer (ideally with a webcam), and a headset with a microphone.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley (available at [Octopus Books](#))

All other readings can be found:

- in ARES on Brightspace
- on the content page on Brightspace
- via hyperlinks listed below in the course schedule

### **EVALUATION**

The way to succeed in this course is straightforward: reading is the foundation. Take notes on what you read. Attending lecture, asking questions, and taking good lecture notes help with your understanding of what you read. Keeping this up weekly will automatically prepare you for quizzes.

*Quizzes (11% x 5): 55%*

There will be 7 quizzes on Brightspace over the course of the term. Quizzes are open-book/open-note. Quizzes will be based on course material: readings, lectures, videos, slides, etc. The main purpose of the quizzes is to stay updated with the reading. The quizzes are timed but you will have a six-day period in which to complete each quiz. Students with PMC accommodations will get more time to take each quiz within the six-day period. Quizzes will be posted on Sundays and due on Saturdays. Your 5 highest scores will count for your final grade. However, if you complete all 7 quizzes, a 1% bonus will be added to your final grade (if you complete 6 quizzes, no bonus points will be added to your grade). NOTE: Quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances. This is because leniency (missing 2 quizzes without penalty) is already built into the assignment.

*Reflections (15% x 3): 45%*

Directions for each reflection paper may vary and ask you to address specific issues or questions. Specific directions will be available on Brightspace.

Reflection paper #1: based on material from Week 2 – Week 5 (15%)

Reflection paper #2: based on material from Week 6 – Week 9 (15%)

Reflection paper #3: based on material from Week 10 – Week 13 (15%)

*Lecture and Activity Participation (\*bonus points\*)*

Lecture will be online and live during class time. A recording will be made available on Brightspace soon after class.

If you have your camera on during an entire lecture, you will receive half a percentage point per class. If you have your camera on during every lecture, that means you could have 5.5% total added onto your final grade as a bonus.

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

If a student is unable to turn a reflection in on time and requires an extension, the student should inform the professor via email as soon as possible so that an alternative due date can be arranged. The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension.

There will be no extensions for quizzes since there is already consideration for difficult circumstances built into the assignment (i.e., only 5 out of the 7 exams will count for a grade), as well as accommodations (i.e. extra time during the six-day period for students registered with the PMC).

### **COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be taken in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:  
<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>.

**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 [click here](#).

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact The Paul Menton Centre (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). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC Website for their deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable): <https://carleton.ca/pmc>.

### **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/>.

### **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 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/studentssupport/svpolicy/>.

### **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 contact the departmental administrator or visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.

### **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: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1, Jan 10**

*Introduction to the course*

### **WEEK 2, Jan 17**

*What is human rights?*

- Introduction – Lynn Hunt in *Inventing Human Rights*

### **QUIZ 1 posted Jan 23**

#### **WEEK 3, Jan 24** (last day for registration / changing courses)

*On categories of thought: what can we ask of 'humanity'?*

- "The Humanities and 'Other' Humans" – Charles H. Long, pp. 321-328
- Preface and "Sleeping Beauty" – Faisal Devji, in *The Terrorist in Search of Humanity*, pp.1-23

### **QUIZ 1 DUE Jan 29**

#### **WEEK 4, Jan 31**

*On categories of thought: what can we ask of 'the human'?*

- "No Humans Involved: An Open Letter to my Colleagues" – Sylvia Wynter, pp.42-71

### **QUIZ 2 posted Feb 6**

#### **WEEK 5, Feb 7**

*Setting the stage: the state, political modernity, and colonialism*

- Introduction – Mahmood Mamdani in *Neither Settler Nor Native*, pp.1-23.

### **QUIZ 2 DUE Feb 12**

### **QUIZ 3 posted Feb 13**

#### **WEEK 6, Feb 14**

*The state and human rights*

- "The Ends of Human Rights" – Costas Douzinas,  
<http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/MelbULawRw/2002/23.html#fn1>

### **QUIZ 3 DUE Feb 19**

[Feb 21 – No class, statutory holiday]

### **QUIZ 4 posted Feb 27**

#### **WEEK 7, Feb 28**

*Religion, state, and the secular*

- "Introduction: Thinking about Secularism" – Talal Asad in *Formations of the Secular*
- "Redeeming the 'Human' Through Human Rights" – Talal Asad in *Formations of the Secular*

**Reflection 1 DUE Mar 1****QUIZ 4 DUE Mar 5****WEEK 8, Mar 7**

*Malcolm Little's early years*

- Chapters 1-9 in *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

**QUIZ 5 posted Mar 13****WEEK 9, Mar 14**

*From "Satan" to "Malcolm X"*

- Chapters 10-14 in *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

**QUIZ 5 DUE Mar 19****WEEK 10, Mar 21**

*Critiquing the secular*

- "The Human Being in Black Theology" – James H. Cone, in *A Black Theology of Liberation*, pp.87-115

**Reflection 2 DUE Mar 24****QUIZ 6 posted Mar 27****WEEK 11, Mar 28**

- Malcolm X's speech, "Message to the Grassroots" speech (1963)
- Malcolm X's speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet" (1964)

**QUIZ 6 DUE Apr 2****QUIZ 7 posted Apr 3****WEEK 12, Apr 4**

*From Malcolm X to El Hajj Malik El Shabazz*

- Chapters 15-19 of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

**QUIZ 7 DUE Apr 9****WEEK 13, Apr 11**

*Genocide, the United Nations, and Black America*

- "70 Years Ago Black Activists Accused the U.S. of Genocide. They Should Have Been Taken Seriously" - Alex Hinton,

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/12/26/black-activists-charge-genocide-united-states-systemic-racism-526045>

- "Genocide against the Black Nation in the U.S. Penal System (Abridged)" – Mutulu Shakur, Anthony X. Bradhaw, Malik Dinguswa, Terry Long, Mark Cook, Adolfo Matos, and James Haskins. in *Imprisoned Intellectuals: America's Political Prisoners Write on Life, Liberation, and Rebellion*, Pp. 187-197
- Read through the Spirit of Mandela organization's website:  
<https://spiritofmandela.org/internationaltribunal/>

**Reflection 3 DUE Apr 12**