

## Course Outline

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<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 2105 D – Social Justice and Human Rights</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2023</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>1.0 credit from LAWS 1001, LAWS 1002, or HUMR 1001 [1.0], or PAPM 1001 and PSCI 2003</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Thursdays 11:35 – 14:25</b> <b>Room: Southam Hall 306</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>Deniz Pinar Konuk</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office: B442 Loeb Building</b> <b>Office Hrs: By appointment (Zoom or in person)</b> <b>Telephone:</b> <b>Email: deniz.konuk@carleton.ca</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 social justice and human rights. Students will learn about the idealistic notions and international legal frameworks for human rights as well as how social and political movements challenge and support these mechanisms. This class will ask students to think through and move beyond the rudimentary understandings of rights to assess universalist approaches, limitations of rights discourses, and movements for social justice by examining varied historical and social contexts.

This is a reading and writing intensive course with weekly lectures. 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 be also in-class activities and discussions throughout the semester. Students are expected to participate actively in these discussions and activities.

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/universalistic 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.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Short Reading Quizzes (7)	Completed online	BEFORE lectures	14%
Short Reading Commentary	3-4 pages	February 6	16%
Book Analysis	5-6 pages	March 1	20%
Academic Blog Post	5-6 pages	March 28	20%
Take Home Final Exam	On lectures AND readings	TBD	30%

### **COURSE COMPONENTS**

#### *Reading Quizzes (14%)*

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, students are required to complete a short quiz on the week's assigned readings. Quizzes will be posted on Thursday evening and will close the following Thursday morning before class. There will be 9 quizzes in total (excluding first

week, last week and week 7), and students only have to complete 7 quizzes to receive full marks (7 quizzes, worth 2 point each = 14%). Quizzes will be composed of multiple choice, true/false or short answer questions and you must get at least 50% correct in order to get full credit. Please ensure that you have a secure and reliable internet connection when completing the quizzes as they will be timed. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

#### *Short Reading Commentary (16%)*

Students are required to write a reading commentary meant to develop their critical reading skills. Students may select any one of the weekly readings from the first section of the course (Section 1: Histories includes week 2, week 3 and week 4) to use for this assignment. Commentaries should be 3-4 pages (12-point font, double-spaced with appropriate margins), and should follow the questions listed on the assignment sheet (instructions will be posted). Reading Commentaries will be due on **February 6**.

#### *Book Analysis (20%)*

Students are required to read *Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial* by Dallas Hunt & Gina Starblanket and write a critical reflection paper that analyses the authors' argument and how it relates to human rights and social justice issues. The paper should be 5-6 pages (12-point font, double-spaced with appropriate margins), and should follow the instructions outlined in the assignment sheet (instructions will be posted). Book analysis papers will be due on **March 1**.

#### *Academic Blog Post (20%)*

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 on a topic they choose. The topic should fit within the themes of the course. Students will do research and write a concise blog post catered to an academic audience relevant to the course materials and social justice issues covered in class. The post should be 5-6 pages (12-point font, double-spaced with appropriate margins), and should follow the instructions outlined in the assignment sheet (instructions will be posted). The posts will be due on **March 28**.

#### *Take Home Final Exam (30%)*

The final exam for this course is a take-home exam (consisting primarily of essay type questions). Please note that the Final Exam in this course will be scheduled by Examination Services at a later date.

#### *\*Bonus Points\*: Lecture and Activity Participation (up to 5%)*

There will be different in-class activities throughout the course. Students can receive up to 5% in total from participating in discussions and in-class activities.

**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 12: Introduction - Studying Rights and Justice**

Syllabus

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

### **Week 2 | January 19: 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 26: 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 2: 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 9: The Holocaust as the Defining Crisis of Western Human Rights and Law in the Service of Nation Building**

Arendt, Hannah (1963) *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (Evidence and Witnesses; Judgement Appeal and Execution; Epilogue), pgs. 220-280

### **Week 6 | February 16: Rights, Empire, 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/>)

### **Reading week | No class on February 23**

### **Week 7 | March 2: Settler-Colonial Narratives**

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

### **Week 8 | March 9: Rights as Paradoxes**

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

Young, Iris Marion (1990) 'Five Faces of Oppression' in *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, pgs. 39-65.

## Section 3: COMMONS

### **Week 9 | March 16: 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>

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>.

### Week 10 | March 23: From Ruins and Arts to Human Rights Investigations

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

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

### Week 11 | March 30: Rights, Justice, and Collective Struggles in the Neoliberal Times

Moyn, Samuel (2019) Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World, pgs. 173-211

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 6: Review

No required reading

<b>Winter 2023 Sessional Dates and University Closures</b>	
<b><i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i></b> <a href="https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/">https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/</a>	
<b>January 9, 2023</b>	Winter term begins.
<b>January 20, 2023</b>	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
<b>February 20, 2023</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>February 20-24, 2023</b>	Winter break. No classes.
<b>March 15, 2023</b>	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
<b>April 7, 2023</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>April 12, 2023</b>	Winter term ends. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.
<b>April 15-27, 2023</b>	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
<b>April 27, 2023</b>	All final take-home examinations are due on this day.

## **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**

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 [click here](#).

**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). 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/>.