
Course Outline

Course: LAWS 2105 D&T - **Social Justice and Human Rights**

Prerequisite: Second-year standing

Term: Fall 2017

Class Time: Monday 2:35-5:25pm

Room: Check **Carleton Central** for class location

Instructor: Stephen Tasson

Contact: **Office:** Loeb Building D599 (/w T. Purvis)
Office Hours: Monday 10-12pm (or by appointment)
Email: steve_tasson@carleton.ca

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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 the Equity Services website: <http://www2.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 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*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.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://www.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 carleton.ca/csas

Departmental 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. <http://www.carleton.ca/law/student-resources/department-policies/>

Course Overview

The course aims to introduce and explore important debates surrounding the theoretical foundations and contemporary practices of “human rights”; and to further connect these perspectives and practices to the pursuit of “social justice”. In addition to highlighting the theoretical and historical development of human rights, particularly in the post-WWII period, we consider some of the dominant critiques of human rights from this period and also explore the central ambiguities of a growing reliance on human rights in more recent and contemporary social and political struggles.

A number of the discussions will be framed around a series of challenging, but necessary, questions: What are human rights and what do they *do*? Are there limits to what rights claims might encompass or achieve? What is the relationship between ‘the law’ and such rights? What impact does the institutionalization, or instrumentalization, of human rights play in addressing injustices? Given heightened contemporary anxieties, what might be done – and justified – in the name of human rights?

Finally, even an introductory exploration of human rights and social justice offers a welcome opportunity to engage unruly concepts of responsibility, citizenship, legality, violence, belonging and community. A central aim of this course, then, is to enable students to critically reflect on the value and utility of these concepts in our contemporary context and to begin to make convincing arguments employing such conceptual frameworks.

Required Text(s)

Note: The text is available from [Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., Ottawa](#) (located in “the Glebe”- a 20 minute walk from campus or a short ride on the #7).

Arendt, Hannah. 1963. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin.

All other required readings are available on or through CULearn

Course Evaluation

Term Paper I	25%	(Due: Date TBA (mid-Oct))
Term Paper II	35%	(Due: 11pm November 24 th)
Final Exam	40%	(Due: 11pm December 22 nd)

Course Components

You must complete all components of the course to receive a passing grade. All grades are subject to the approval of the Department and the Dean. Thus, grades (e.g. those on CULearn) are not “final” until they have been approved by the Dean.

Term Papers

There is a two term papers in the course. Each will ask students to summarize, synthesize and critique (i.e. take a position on) some of the materials and themes we investigate in the course. The term paper provides an opportunity to discuss the readings from the course and draw connections to some of the broader questions and themes highlighted in the lectures. *Term Paper I* will be **approx. 5-7 pages** in length and *Term Paper II* will be **approx. 10 pages** double-spaced pages in length. The specific lengths, questions, and rubrics for evaluation will outlined in the assignment sheet and will also be discussed each in more detail in advance of the deadline.

Final Exam

The final exam for course is a take-home exam (consisting primarily of essay type questions) made available in the final class and completed during the formal exam period and submitted through CULearn. More details will be discussed in class before the end of term.

Weekly Schedule

The schedule for weekly required readings is available on CULearn.

N.B. There is no class scheduled on **October 9th** due to the **Thanksgiving Holiday**. There is also no class scheduled on **October 23rd** due to Carleton’s **Fall Reading Week**. There is a “make-up” class scheduled for the final week of term (so we have a full 12 weeks). We will discuss in class how this “make-up” week will work.

Some General Guidelines on Assignments for This Course

(We will be discussing these requirements in more detail in class or the tutorial)

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Any written work submitted in this course **must** be typewritten, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman or Arial font with standard 1-inch margins. Assignments need to not include a title page but must include your name and student number, the course code, and my name at the top of the page. Any title pages, bibliographies and/or extensive footnotes are not counted in determining an assignment's page length. Assignments for this course are to be submitted as PDF files through CULearn unless otherwise indicated on the assignment sheet. If you anticipate any problems with this process please contact me *well in advance of the deadline*. Final-hour technical problems with submission is not a valid excuse for a late assignment. A "Test Assignment Dropbox" has been provided on CULearn for you to work out any technical problems.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Late assignments will be penalized **one grade point (~3% per day)** that they are late (unless otherwise specified on the assignment instructions). It is your responsibility to ensure that assignments are submitted on or before the deadline. Take-home exams **must** be submitted on time or they **will not be accepted**. If you cannot complete the take-home exam by the deadline you must notify me and then apply for a formal deferral with the Registrar's Office.

BACKUP COPIES

Student must retain a secure copy of anything submitted for a grade in the class. This copy should be kept for at least 3 months following the end of the course in case there is any discrepancy in final grades. In the very unlikely event that a submitted assignment is mishandled, you must be able to produce another copy immediately upon request.

REFERENCING & PLAGIARISM

The assignments in the course must be properly referenced and include a bibliography of all sources used in the preparation of the assignment. We will discuss citation briefly in class in the lead-up to the assignments. **Failure to reference properly or attempting to pass someone else's ideas or work off as your own is considered plagiarism. I take it very seriously and so should you.** Plagiarism can lead to serious penalties that range from course failure to expulsion. Engaging in it is incredibly misguided.

Friendly Warning: The internet is your friend and also your enemy! While it may be a useful resource in the initial stages of research or provide access to books or journals, it may also be tempting to rely on – or even “liberally borrow” – information found “there” to complete tough assignments. Beyond the most obvious issue of inviting plagiarism (see above), online sources may not be entirely accurate or helpful and may in fact **unduly complicate or undermine your own (better!) interpretation or arguments**. In short, these tools can sometimes be a brick rather than a life-preserver when you're struggling with a challenging assignment.