

Carleton University Department of Law and Legal Studies

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 3602B – International Human Rights
TERM:	Winter 2026
PREREQUISITES:	0.5 credit from LAWS 2105, LAWS 2502, LAWS 2601 or HRSJ 2001, and 0.5 credit in LAWS at the 2000 level or PAPM 1001 and PSCI 2003
CLASS:	Day/ Time: This class is entirely online. Recorded lectures will be posted on Brightspace (online asynchronous).
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Umut Özsu
CONTACT:	Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:35 to 11:25 am (online)
	Email: Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/366349

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the law, theory, and historical context of international human rights. The course examines key doctrinal, theoretical, political, and institutional elements of international human rights law, past and present debates about human rights practices and politics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the law, theory, and history of international human rights. We will study the key doctrinal, theoretical, and institutional elements of international human rights law. We will also study the perspective of past and present debates about human rights and international human rights law.

The lectures in this course are delivered “asynchronously”. This means that there are no live, scheduled meetings for lectures. Instead, I will be posting recorded lectures each week on our Brightspace course webpage. You will be free to watch them at times of your own choosing.

PRECLUSIONS

Precludes additional credit for LAWS 4604 (no longer offered).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be introduced to the basic doctrinal and theoretical architecture of international human rights, including key human rights treaties and institutions, the historical development of international human rights law, and a variety of contemporary debates about the political valence and trajectory of human rights struggles.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The two required texts for this course are as follows:

Antony Anghie, *Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005). Paperback edition. ISBN: 9780521702720. Cost: \$45.95.

Umut Özsü, *Completing Humanity: The International Law of Decolonization, 1960–82* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023). Paperback edition. ISBN: 9781108447041. Cost: \$45.95.

You must have access throughout the semester to both of these books. I strongly encourage you to purchase copies of both. Each is available for a cost of \$45.95 at the Campus Bookstore (formerly known as the Carleton Bookstore).

The university library has a small number of copies of each book, as well as electronic access to both. If you are unable to afford the paperback editions of these books, I recommend that you use the electronic versions available through the university library. However, it would be best to purchase the paperback editions of both books, since we will be reading and referring to them throughout the semester.

EVALUATION

There are four formal evaluation components to this course:

Quiz 1: 20% (Wednesday, February 4)

Quiz 2: 25% (Wednesday, March 11)

Essay: 25% (due by midnight on Tuesday, March 31)

Final exam: 30% (online during the formally scheduled exam period)

These evaluation components operate as follows:

1. Quiz 1

We will hold our first quiz online on Wednesday, February 4. The quiz will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions relating to the material that has been covered in the course until that point. You will have 40 minutes to complete the exam. It will be a strictly closed book quiz.

2. Quiz 2

We will hold our second quiz online on Wednesday, March 11. The quiz will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions relating to the material covered in the course since the first quiz. You will have 40 minutes to complete the exam. It will be a strictly closed book quiz.

3. Essay

You are required to prepare an essay on one of three topics that I will provide to you at the beginning of the course. This essay must be between 2500 and 3000 words in total (not including any notes or bibliographical materials). It must have a clear thesis, be driven by a structured argument, be written in clear, grammatically correct English, and draw upon at least some of the cases, issues, theories, and/or debates that we have examined in the course. I will provide guidelines, including instructions on citation-related questions, in due course.

The essay will be due by midnight on Tuesday, March 31. It must be submitted electronically via Brightspace by this deadline. Do not email the essay directly to me.

If you would like to appeal your grade on the essay, you will need to meet with the Teaching Assistant who graded it, who is under no obligation to modify the grade.

4. Final exam

We will hold an online final exam during the formally scheduled exam period at the end of the semester. The final exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions. It will be a cumulative exam, in the sense that you will be responsible for all material covered in the course as a whole. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam. It will be strictly closed book.

Please note that 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.

Please also note that all components of the course must be completed in order to obtain a passing grade.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

The granting of extensions is at my discretion. For information about requesting short-term or long-term extensions, deferrals for final exams, or academic consideration due to illness, injury, or other extraordinary circumstances, please visit the [Academic Consideration Policy page](#). All requests must be submitted to me before the assignment due date or, in the case of exam deferrals, directly to the Registrar's Office.

SCHEDULE**Lecture****Topic and Readings**

Week of Wednesday, January 7, 2026	General introduction
Week of Wednesday, January 14, 2026	Histories of international human rights [no readings]
Week of Wednesday, January 21, 2026	Theories of international human rights [no readings]
Week of Wednesday, January 28, 2026	1945 and the development of international human rights law [no readings]
Week of Wednesday, February 4, 2026	Quiz 1 1945 and the development of international human rights law [no readings]
Week of Wednesday, February 11, 2026	1945 and the development of international criminal and humanitarian law (cont'd) [no readings]
Week of Wednesday, February 18, 2026	[Winter break, no classes]
Week of Wednesday, February 25, 2026	History and theory of international law: from the School of Salamanca to Victorian-era international law (Anghie, introduction, chs. 1 and 2)
Week of Wednesday, March 4, 2026	History and theory of international law: from the League of Nations Mandates System to the “post-colonial” state (Anghie, chs. 3 and 4)
Week of Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Quiz 2 History and theory of international law: self-determination and <i>jus cogens</i> in post-1945 decolonization (Özsu, introduction, chs. 1 and 2)

Week of Wednesday, March 18, 2026	History and theory of international law: terrorism, self-defence, and imperialism (Anghie, ch. 6)
Week of Wednesday, March 25, 2026	History and theory of international law: human rights, “basic needs”, and the North/South divide (Özsu, ch. 5)
Week of Wednesday, April 1, 2026	General concluding session [no readings]

POLICY ON PERMISSIBILITY OF SUBMITTING SAME WORK MORE THAN ONCE, PERMISSIBILITY OF GROUP OR COLLABORATIVE WORK, AND PERMISSIBILITY OF USING GENERATIVE AI

You cannot reuse your own work from a different course or assignment under any circumstances.

Group and collaborative work is neither expected or permitted in this course.

You may use AI tools for basic word processing functions, including grammar and spell checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot). You may *not* use AI to produce content for the essay assignment or to answer questions on exams and quizzes.

It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that is not listed above, please consult me in advance.

Why have I adopted this policy? Because the goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to ensure that all students develop foundational skills in legal analysis, critical thinking, and clear writing without the support of AI.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Winter 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i> https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/	
January 5, 2026	Winter term begins.
January 16, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) for Winter courses.
January 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 16, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
February 16-20, 2026	Winter break. No classes.
March 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from Winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 25, 2026	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.
April 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 8, 2026	Winter term ends.
	Last day of winter and fall/winter classes.
	Classes follow a Friday schedule.
	Last day for take home examinations to be assigned.
April 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-23, 2026	Final examinations in fall term courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held.

April 23, 2026

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

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.

For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling: <https://wellness.carleton.ca/get-help-now/>
- 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/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

Pregnancy and Family-Status Related Accommodations

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 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/>.

Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfill the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The University supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented.

Students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. If not satisfied with the instructor's decision, students can conduct an "informal appeal" to the Chair of the department within three (3) working days of an instructor's decision. We have created a webform specifically for appeals to the Chair, which can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/law/application-for-review-of-refusal-to-provide-academic-consideration/>. *Note: This form only applies to LAWS courses and is not the same as a formal appeal of grade.* More information about the academic consideration can be found [here](#).