

PHIL 2103: Philosophy of Human Rights

Winter 2019, Wednesdays and Fridays 4:05-5:35pm

Prof: Katherine Wayne

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm, PA 3A38

Teaching Assistant: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From Course Calendar: Philosophical introduction to human rights sources, concepts, justifications, consequences, and challenges to them. Evolution of selected human rights as a) demands made in political struggles; b) declarations supported by moral or political principles and arguments; c) codes ratified and implemented by governments and international organizations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Understand philosophical theories and concepts pertinent to human rights
- Critically analyze and compare different approaches to human rights
- Produce clear arguments in defense of particular positions on issues related to human rights
- Address human rights issues in peer discussions using the methods, theories, and concepts introduced in the course

CLASS TEXTS

We will primarily draw from a course-pack that I have assembled and will be available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue).

Some assigned material will not be in the course pack, and in these cases will be made accessible through cuLearn.

METHODS AND POLICIES

While this is a lecture course, I will regularly include discussion and other peer-supported learning activities in class. I will expect you to come to class having completed the assigned readings. To ensure minimal distractions and promote active engagement, the use of laptops and other technologies should be limited to note-taking and other classroom activities.

I encourage you to take advantage of office hours wherever feasible. While my TA and I will respond to e-mails as promptly and fully as possible, e-mail exchanges should generally be reserved for brief and/or logistical/administrative questions. You can typically expect to receive a response to e-mail inquiries from me within twenty-four hours during the work week, barring noted exceptions.

You should check cuLearn regularly for important messages and information about, e.g., scheduling, readings, and assignment instructions. You are also encouraged to use the student discussion forum on cuLearn for peer discussion, forming study groups, exchanging class notes, etc.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill any of the course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible and take care to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies and accommodations services. There is a complete list of these on the last pages of this outline, with which all students should become familiar.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. If you are unclear on the nature of academic integrity or Carleton's academic integrity policy, please consult with me and/or the information and links to further resources on the last page of the syllabus.

EVALUATION

Further information and instructions will be posted on cuLearn and discussed in class.

1) In-class group assignments: 20%

Six classes will be primarily devoted to in-class small group exercises involving analysis, critique, and discussion of that day's assigned material (with the exception of the paper workshop). Groups submit one copy of the jointly completed assignment for grading at the end of class; each present and participating member of the group will receive the same assignment grade. Your top four assignments will contribute 5% to your final grade.

2) Paper: 35%

Students will choose a topic from a set list, and write a paper of 1200-1500 words on that topic. The paper deadline is Friday February 15th.

3) Final exam: 45%

The final exam (during exam period, date and time TBA) will cover all course material, but emphasize what we covered in second half of the course (after the reading break). The exam will include short and long answer questions. More information will be made available as the exam period approaches, and the last class will be primarily devoted to exam review.

COURSE SCHEDULE (note: readings list and schedule information will be available on cuLearn)

Wednesday, January 9th: Introduction to the course

Weeks 1-4: Philosophical foundations of human rights

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday January 16th: First in-class group assignment

Wednesday January 30th: Second in-class group assignment

Weeks 5-6: Human rights for nonhumans?

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday February 8th: Third in-class group assignment (paper workshop)

Friday February 15th: paper due

Week 7: February 20/22: Reading Break

Weeks 8-10: Universality and Relativism

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday March 1st: Fourth in-class group assignment

Wednesday March 13th: Fifth in-class group assignment

Weeks 11-12: Rights to what? Defining the content and context of rights

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday March 22nd: Sixth in-class group assignment

Week 13: Problems for human rights

Week 14: Conclusions and review

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval 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 Dean.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor 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 your professor 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/>

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 its 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:

carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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.

<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:

students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735