



HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES 2900F (570)
Rights in Canada
Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Bangarth
Email: sbangar@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course explores the historical and political context in which Human Rights are recognized as a discourse in Canadian society. It examines the complexity of human rights and the contradictory forces which have led to successes and failures in protecting minorities in this country.

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 essay course at the first-year level in any discipline.

Antirequisite(s):

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.50 course.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: HUMANRS

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.



HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES 2900F

RIGHTS IN CANADA

Fall 2025

Sec. 570

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Bangarth - sbangar@uwo.ca

***office hours, class times and location will be available on the course OWL site**

Mode of Instruction: in-person

Course Overview

This course examines ethnic and racist prejudices and discrimination in Canada including attitudes towards immigrants from Asia and Europe, African Canadian, and Indigenous peoples. It will also explore the efforts of human rights advocates. Throughout the course, students will examine developments in racial equality and human rights, primarily since 1945. Weekly discussions based on readings will offer students an opportunity to explore such questions as: What are "human rights" and how are they different from any other rights? Where do human rights come from? Why do they change over time, and by whom and by what means are changes effected? Is there a role for the historian in explaining this process, and can the lessons of history be applied to public policy and to outstanding human rights issues? Can the Canadian experience serve as a model for other societies? The focus for our study will be the formation and evolution of Canadian human rights, but with considerable attention paid to international events which have provided context for what was happening in Canada.

Course Evaluation

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| Participation | 20% |
| Reflection Paper 1 | 25% |
| Reflection Paper 2 | 25% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with a knowledgeable background on the history of Canada's approach to human rights in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries via lectures, discussions, films, and guest speakers.
2. To assess critically academic debates within the context of the past through lectures and in-class debates.
3. To develop and enhance communication and critical reasoning skills through reading, analysis of sources, and seminar participation.
4. To offer students an opportunity to discuss and to critically analyze the history of human rights in Canada in an open and collegial environment.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify the key figures and issues and their influence on the development of human rights in Canada's past and present.
2. Outline the major eras and the defining relationships (international and domestic) that shaped the development of human rights and rights culture.
3. Assess rights claims and place them in their historical and issue-specific context.
4. Articulate reasoned arguments about various aspects of the study of human rights in Canada in both verbal and written forms.

I acknowledge that our campus at King's University College is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lenapeewak, and Chonnonton peoples, all of whom have longstanding relationships to the land of Southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The First Nations communities of our local area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. And in our region, there are eleven First Nations communities, as well as a growing indigenous urban population. King's University College values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations, and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island (also known as North America).

Course Structure

Generally, classes will start with a lecture, followed by a film or activity and finally a discussion period. Our weekly class meetings are intended to bolster work done on your own time (reading, writing and thinking). You are expected to attend the majority of classes and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each week. You should complete readings before class and attend with one talking point or question that responds in some way to the reading. You are expected to complete both of the two assignments to be permitted to write the final exam.

COURSE TEXTS

There are no required course texts to purchase. Course Readings are available on OWL and/or on reserve in the Cardinal Carter Library.

ASSIGNMENTS

Film Reflection Piece

You will write a 1250 word analysis of a film to be viewed in class, the assigned readings, and the associated class discussion. Your analysis should include the following:

1. A brief, overall description of the film;
2. A discussion of the film, readings, and class discussion, which addresses certain questions (to be posted to OWL);
3. A conclusion that draws together your analysis of the film in a way that relates to more general issues, such as the use of film as an instructional tool and what you learned about human rights through it.

Further details are available on OWL. The assignment is due on **Friday October 3**.

Guest Speaker Reflection Piece

You will write a 1250 word analysis of any one (1) guest speaker's presentation, your own thoughts, and assigned readings. Your analysis should include the following:

1. A brief, overall description of the guest speaker's presentation;
2. A discussion of the presentation, readings, and your own analysis which addresses certain questions (full description posted to OWL);
3. A conclusion that draws together your analysis of the entire event in a way that relates to more general issues, and what you learned about human rights through it.

Further details are available on OWL. The assignment is due **within 9 days following the guest speaker's presentation**.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The final examination will be held during the regular December examination period. More detailed comments and advice will be offered on **Dec. 3, 2025**.

Note: The last date to drop a Fall half-course is **December 1, 2025**.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions of course material form an integral part of HRS 2900F. Discussion attendance and participation are therefore expected at all of the scheduled meetings. The readings and articles chosen for each discussion supplement the lectures with additional information and, certainly, some different interpretations, and are designed to contribute to your own evolving understanding of the development of human rights. Use your voice in class to share your informed analysis of the issues. This is great training for life, when you may be called upon to speak up, and speak with conviction and accuracy!

Be prepared to make regular contributions to our discussions, as participation makes up a substantial part of your grade. **Attendance will be taken at each discussion session. Participation grades will be based on attendance, the consistency of your contributions, and the quality of your remarks.** More information on participation is in a Participation Guidelines document on OWL. *Like the lectures, assigned articles from these collections will be subject matter for tests and examinations.*

Note: *Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or tutorials in any course, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.*

How to Prepare for Discussions

Here are some questions to keep in mind to help you prepare your notes and comments for discussions:

1. What did you think of the readings? Why? Any surprises?
2. What are the main points of the readings?
3. Do the readings present different viewpoints? What are they? What accounts for the differences in opinions?
4. What do you think are the goals of the authors? Why did they write what they did?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the readings?
6. Have the readings challenged or added to your understanding of the topic? Why and how?
7. What questions or issues do the readings raise in your mind?

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

Your communication with professors should mostly be in-person; email should be used largely for simple, yes/no sort of questions – or to make an appointment. Students who do not normally use a UWO email account should be aware that external messages may be delayed by UWO's Spamtrap. You are strongly advised to discuss course-related matters with your professor during their scheduled office hours. This is the best way to succeed in HRS 2900F. It is also much nicer to have a face-to-face conversation!

Inappropriate use of laptops and cell phones during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. Please do not distract your fellow students in the class.

If you cannot meet a course requirement:

If you are unable to fulfill the course requirements you should refer to College regulations. I advise you to plan ahead to allow enough time to complete assignments in the event of minor illnesses or personal problems. If you have extenuating or medical circumstances, you should advise me **immediately**, because course work is not graded on a retroactive basis.

Academic Considerations:

The Film Reflection Piece requires formal supporting documentation. The University policy on academic consideration is found here:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf. The Guest

Speaker Reflection Piece does not qualify for academic consideration since flexibility with the due date is already built in.

Policy on Attendance:

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad .pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial). Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses. Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools including ChatGPT is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. This course allows the use of translation tools and grammar-checking tools. In light of this grammar will form a significant part of the assessment process.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see

<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/TurnItIn.html>

LEARNING INCLUSIVELY AND BRAVELY

(1) Inform the instructor if you have a preferred name or gender pronoun. (2) Everyone, including your professors, are to be treated with respect. Review [CONDUCT 1](#), [CONDUCT 2](#), and [PROFESSIONALISM](#). (3) Comments should be based on facts (if applicable/possible) to foster productive dialogue and debate. (4) Growth and deep understanding often come from challenging discussions and debate while confronting discomfort. At the same time, there should be no harassing, discriminating, bullying, offensive, or demeaning statements and behaviour. See [Bullying and Harassment](#) and [Microaggressions](#), (5) The instructor is committed to supporting diverse learners in an inclusive, accessible, and reasonable manner.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to

establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports_-_TurnItIn.html.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.