



Childhood and Youth Studies 2214G (570) (571) (572) (573)
INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: H. Knight

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Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course offers a foundation to engage in the conceptual and practical considerations of children and their place within discourses of advocacy. It offers a context for understanding the societal limitations that have defined advocacy with children, alongside a growing theoretical realisation of the value of engaging with children as 'participants'.

Prerequisite(s): Childhood and Youth Studies 1025F/G or the former Childhood and Social Institutions 1025F/G.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: CYS

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.

CYS 2214G: INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY

Winter 2026

Professor: Dr. Hunter Knight

Email: hknight6@uwo.ca

Mode of instruction: In person

Land Acknowledgement:

Our campus at King's University is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, and Lūnaapéewak Nations, 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. In our region, there are eleven First Nations communities, as well as a growing Indigenous urban population. King's University values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations, and all of the Original Peoples of the Turtle Island (also known as North America).

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CYS Learning Objectives:

- **LO 1** - CYS students acquire a general knowledge of the key concepts, theoretical approaches and assumptions within the field of childhood and youth studies. They come to see children as competent social actors and understand the implications of this fact for children's participatory rights in a local, national and global contexts. Those who obtain an Honours Specialization (HSP) in CYS demonstrate the ability to assess issues and critique arguments about the politics of childhood, social justice for children, and children's rights and capabilities in various institutional contexts.
- **LO 2** - CYS students become familiar with interdisciplinary approaches to childhood and learn to evaluate and distinguish between them. Those who complete an HSP come to understand how these approaches intersect with other fields and disciplines, and formulate their own research questions in upper division seminars.
- **LO 4** - CYS students apply analytic tools within childhood studies, and defend their ideas and arguments in oral and written forms. HSP students conduct research in childhood studies. Apply and defend ideas and arguments in speech and writing and in communication with others.
- **LO 5** - CYS students are able to assess the applicability of research and its social implications for public debate, policy, law, and professional practice. HSP students are able to offer critique and alternative perspectives on how research should be applied and what implications it might have for diverse communities in and beyond Canada.
- **LO 6** - CYS students come to appreciate that the way we position children and youth as persons shapes our policy positions and the research questions. HSP students develop

the ability to place children's and youths' own experiences and perceptions at the center of research methods and policy/legal debate.

- **LO 7** - CYS students develop lines of argument and to make sound judgements in accordance with major concepts, theories and methods in childhood studies. Be able to use a range of techniques to frame questions, evaluate arguments and concepts and propose solutions.
- **LO 9** - CYS students gain the ability to communicate accurate information and clear arguments orally and in writing.
- **LO 11** - CYS students work effectively with others and take personal responsibility for their actions when part of a team. They take initiative and maintain behavior consistent with academic integrity, community involvement, and social responsibility.

Course-Specific Learning Objectives:

- Understand the historical and present contexts in which advocacy for children occurs, including why advocacy is necessary and the limitations and possibilities for advocacy across these contexts.
- Explore what children's participation means, both theoretically and practically.
- Improve skills in close reading, thinking critically, reading diverse academic texts, and expressing difficult ideas with care in speaking and writing.

Expectations and Course Policies:

Students are expected to arrive in class having completed all required readings closely. Come prepared with points of excitement, moments of confusion, and connections to other readings and to your own lives. Please monitor your university email address carefully for announcements related to this course and ensure that you have OWL announcements for this course turned on.

I will guide our classroom to be a place of mutual learning and respect and work to support your learning with me and with each other. I welcome students to reach out with questions or further conversations by appointment. These appointments may be virtual for ease of scheduling. For small matters, I am best reached by email. I respond to emails between 9-5 on weekdays, and I try my best to respond to all emails within two days (not including weekends).

Access and Accommodation: Access and accommodation are an ongoing part of any educational space, critical to how and what we learn, and something that needs to be negotiated by everyone in the course. Access needs to be regularly chosen and reflected on since it is never complete, and it is something that we will all work together on. For needs for this course that are particular to your interactions with me (including accommodations for assignments), feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services (acsd@kings.uwo.ca) as soon as possible. Please also approach me if there are any access or accommodation needs that you would like me to facilitate with the larger class.

AI Usage Policy: Intentional usage of artificial intelligence or language generation or translation applications by students to summarize readings or complete assigned work for this course must be approved by the instructor and noted by the student in the submitted work itself. This mandate does not refer to aspects of AI programming embedded into applications such as Word, Chrome, etc. It applies to all intentional usage of AI as a 'co-reader' or 'co-writer.' Students must do their own reading and writing to construct their own voices as democratic citizens. They are not allowed to write text and feed it into a computer application to improve it

or translate it. Asking an application to compose text and then changing words before submitting it as your own constitutes plagiarism. The use of Grammarly or similar applications is prohibited. Using plagiarism checkers to see if plagiarized text has been altered enough to avoid detection is itself a form of academic dishonesty. Students must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs using their own minds and in response to what they read, hear, and experience. When you borrow words or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be placed in quotation marks and properly cited.

Marking and Lateness Policy: Penalties for late papers or projects may be avoided if extensions are requested in advance. Otherwise, a two-mark deduction will be taken for each of the first five days it is late (including weekends). After 5-days without communication, a zero will be assigned.

Students are expected to schedule appointments and other responsibilities around class time. To be excused from participatory requirements (attendance or homework, etc.) due to temporary illness or an unavoidable scheduling conflict, contact the instructor directly via email as soon as you are aware of the problem. Ordinary problems of this nature do not require documentation or communication with the Dean's Office; they will be dealt with by the course instructor.

If a student experiences a disruption in their ability to study or participate in the course for more than one week, or if there is a personal loss or trauma of a serious nature, they may request more extensive accommodations, counselling, and other forms of help. The best way to do this is to contact the instructor and/or the Academic Dean's Office.

Course Materials:

- Required text: Sam Frankel, *Giving Children a Voice* (2018), Jessica Kingsley Publishers. This textbook costs \$46.95, or **can be accessed throughout the course for free via the Western library: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/>**.
- All other readings are accessible via Brightspace.

Course Evaluation:

Requirements for all written assignments:

- Must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font.
- Must follow APA formatting.
- Must be submitted via the "Assignments" tab on Brightspace, unless noted otherwise.

Further details for all assignments are available on OWL Brightspace. Final grades will be composed as follows:

- 10%: Participation, composed of 8 in-class journal responses (ongoing, weeks 2-12)
- 30%: Online, open-book midterm (due Week 6)
- 35%: Organizational report on children's advocacy (due Week 11 or Week 12)
- 25%: Guest speaker analysis
- Optional extra credit: submission of notes for peers (worth 0.25% each, up to 4 maximum)

Course Readings and Schedule:

****Readings are subject to change up to one week before they are assigned****

Week and Description	Assigned Readings	Requirements (Assignments bolded)
<i>Week 1—January 6: Introductions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frankel, S. (2018). Getting started: Creating a culture of advocacy. In <i>Giving children a voice: A step-by-step guide to promoting child-centred practice</i> (pp. 11 – 21). Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 	
<i>Week 2—January 13: Challenging Images of the Child in Advocacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abebe, T. (2019). Reconceptualising Children’s Agency as Continuum and Interdependence. <i>Social Sciences</i>, 8(3), 81. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci8030081 Frankel, S. (2018). Revitalise your thinking. In <i>Giving children a voice: A step-by-step guide to promoting child-centred practice</i> (pp. 25 – 54). Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 	Before class, sign up for a group via the “Groups” tab on Brightspace (under “Communications”).
<i>Week 3—January 20: Children’s Voices in Advocacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facca, D., Gladstone, B., & Teachman, G. (2020). Working the Limits of “Giving Voice” to Children: A Critical Conceptual Review. <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i>, 19, 1609406920933391. https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406920933391 Frankel, S. (2018). Be spatially aware. In <i>Giving children a voice: A step-by-step guide to promoting child-centred practice</i> (pp. 55 – 81). Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 	With your group, bring completed work on Phase #1 to share with your tutorial.
<i>Week 4—January 27: Children’s Participation in Advocacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuevas-Parra, P. (2023). Multi-dimensional lens to article 12 of the UNCRC: A model to enhance children’s participation. <i>Children’s Geographies</i>, 21(3), 	

	<p>363–377. https://doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2022.2071598</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frankel, S. (2018). Speak the right language. In <i>Giving children a voice: A step-by-step guide to promoting child-centred practice</i> (pp. 85 – 113). Jessica Kingsley Publishers 	
<p><i>Week 5—February 3: Child-led Transformations of Children’s Advocacy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twum-Danso Imoh, A., & Okyere, S. (2020). Towards a more holistic understanding of child participation: Foregrounding the experiences of children in Ghana and Nigeria. <i>Children and Youth Services Review</i>, 112, 104927. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104927 • Frankel, S. (2018). Creating opportunities & Lead the change. In <i>Giving children a voice: A step-by-step guide to promoting child-centred practice</i> (pp. 114 – 138 & 139 - 160). Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 	<p>With your group, bring completed work on Phase #2 to share with your tutorial.</p> <p>The online, open-book midterm opens February 4 at 12:01 am</p>
<p><i>Week 6—February 10: Midterm</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No required readings 	<p>Complete the online, open-book midterm by February 10 at 11:59 pm</p>
	<p>--No class February 17 for reading week--</p>	
<p><i>Week 7—February 24: Professionals in Child and Youth Advocacy Series: Guest Lecture 1</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings TBA 	<p>With your group, bring completed work on Phase #3 to share with your tutorial.</p>
<p><i>Week 8—March 3: Professionals in Child and Youth Advocacy Series: Guest Lecture 2</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings TBA 	<p>With your group, bring completed work on Phases #4 to share with your tutorial.</p>
<p><i>Week 9—March 10: Professionals in Child and Youth Advocacy Series: Guest Lecture 3</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings TBA 	<p>With your group, bring completed work on Phases #5 to share with your tutorial.</p>

<p><i>Week 10—March 17: Deeper Dive: Child and Youth Advocacy in Practice</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dansereau, F. (Director). (2010). Hope Builders [Video recording]. National Film Board of Canada. https://www.nfb.ca/film/hope_builders/ 	
<p><i>Week 11—March 24: Symposium on Organizations and Children’s Advocacy (Part 1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assigned readings 	<p>Groups in Part 1 present their organizational reports in class</p> <p>Students in Part 1 submit individual reflections and participation rubrics before class</p>
<p><i>Week 12—March 31: Symposium on Organizations and Children’s Advocacy (Part 2)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assigned readings 	<p>Groups in Part 2 present their organizational reports in class</p> <p>Students in Part 2 submit individual reflections and participation rubrics before class</p>
<p><i>Week 13—April 7: Conclusions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assigned readings • No in-class journal entry 	

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.

Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

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](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-supportservices/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/safecampus/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, grammarchecking 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.