



HISTORY 4204F (570)
RIGHTING WRONGS: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADA
Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026

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

Course Information

Calendar Description:

How have Canadians thought about rights throughout our history? This course explores this question by examining rights campaigns in 19th and 20th century Canada. Themes include indigenous rights, gender and sexuality, race, and conflict and rights.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course in History or Human Rights Studies at the 2200-level or above, or permission of the department.

Antirequisite(s):

Extra Information: 2 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: History

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.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HIST 4204F: RIGHTING WRONGS: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADIAN HISTORY
2025 (sec. 570)

Professor Stephanie Bangarth - sbangar@uwo.ca

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

Mode of instruction: in-person

This course examines the history of human rights as it relates to Canada. 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. ***This course uses OWL Brightspace to post all course-related materials.***

Grade Distribution:

Podcast Reaction Assignment	30%
(October 3, 2025)	
Research or Historiography Essay	40%
(December 2, 2025)	
Seminar Participation/Presentation	30%
(ongoing!)	

Note: a student who fails to submit all the required written assignments which together make up the "Essay" component of the course will not receive credit for the course. For HIST 4204F the essay components are the Podcast Reaction Assignment and the Research or Historiography Essay.

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 collegial and informed discussion.
2. To assess critically academic debates within the context of the past through discussions of the assigned readings 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 Canadian history.
2. Outline the major eras and the defining relationships (international and domestic) that shaped the development of human rights and rights culture.
3. Describe the major schools of thought in the historiography on Canadian human rights history.
4. Articulate reasoned arguments about various aspects of the history 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).

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

There are no required course texts. Course Readings are on OWL Brightspace.

SEMINARS

Discussions of course material form an integral part of History 4204F. Seminar attendance and participation are therefore expected. While attendance is a prerequisite, students must also come prepared to discuss the readings in a meaningful and thoughtful manner. Students are forewarned that oral participation is critical to a good grade. Dominating the seminar is frowned upon, as is complete silence. Quality of critical thinking counts for more than quantity. All students are encouraged to share their thoughts and to constructively challenge those of their colleagues in a congenial environment. Those who perform best in the seminar direct their ideas to the entire group and incorporate the comments of other students into their contributions. Come prepared with questions of your own to ask your colleagues in the class. Be sure to subject the readings to your 'critical historian's eye'; that is, subject the weekly readings to a thorough critique. Was the article convincing? Why or why not? It may be helpful to prepare a short summary of each reading, identifying the problem addressed and the author's thesis. Or you may wish to highlight the top three things that stuck with you while you read the material. **Each student will be required to serve as discussion co-leader for one seminar in the course.** More information is posted to OWL on how to prepare for the seminars.

ASSIGNMENTS

Podcast Reaction Assignment

Students will write a brief reaction piece of at least 1000 words but not more than 2,000 words) in length that analyzes the CBC podcast by Connie Walker, 'Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo', along with the assigned reading for **October 3**.

Each student will be responsible for providing an analysis of the Introduction and one episode of the podcast, the assigned reading, and a reaction to the discussion held on September 23. Your paper will not simply summarize or describe the podcast; students will think critically about its content, considering factors such as its context, its purpose, and the cultural values that shaped it. The assignment will be

due (uploaded to OWL) on **Friday October 3**. More detailed information on how to prepare your assignment will be provided in class and on OWL.

YOUR CHOICE OF:

Research Essay

Your research paper should be an analysis of any subject, theme, event, or figure chosen from any aspect of Canada's human rights history. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of your topic, please consult the course instructor. Remember that this is a history course and the essay should incorporate historical themes. You may choose to expand on one of the topics we explore in the course, or you may devise your own topic (please consult with me). Be as creative as you wish! This should be an 'original' research paper, based on primary research. The research paper is due on **Tuesday December 2**.

Your paper **must** include **four** or more **primary** sources (e.g. contemporary newspaper accounts, diaries, memoirs, government documents, etc.) and be based on no fewer than **six** appropriate **secondary** sources (e.g. books, journal articles, etc.). These sources must be utilized consistently throughout your paper. Your paper must include a paragraph analysing the sources you have used in your research. This normally follows the introduction. It also must contain appropriate and consistent references (e.g. footnotes or endnotes according to the Chicago Manual of Style), and a complete bibliography of all works cited. Your paper should be at least **2000-2500 words (~10 pages)** in length, typed in size 12 font and double-spaced, with sufficient margins for instructor's comments. **More information is on OWL.**

Historiography Essay

Historiography is the published product of historians; it is the study of the writing of history. The serious study of history requires an understanding of the historical conditions and social assumptions that give rise to different forms of historiographical interpretation. Your **2000-2500 word (~10 pages)** historiographical paper, due **Tuesday December 2**, should examine not less than eight (8) secondary sources on your chosen topic. These sources may be drawn from the class readings, but no more than six (6). It should be typed in size 12 font and double-spaced, with sufficient margins for instructor's comments. Your essay will be evaluated according to the following: the extent of the analysis (rather than mere description) of the sources; a thesis statement or interpretation that is consistently argued throughout your paper; the ability to set the historians' ideas within their broader context; a good writing style and logical development of ideas; and proper footnoting/endnoting and bibliographic citations (Chicago Manual of Style). **More information is on OWL.**

Research/Historiography Essay Presentation

All class participants will be required to present their papers to their colleagues in class. This should be a short presentation, about 10mins, during which the student will outline the main thesis of the paper, major findings, methodology, and source materials used. Students will be grouped along similar research project interests so that the discussions take on an academic conference format. Others in the class are strongly encouraged to participate and engage the presenters. The successful completion of this component will be reflected in the grade for the research paper. More information will be made available in class and on OWL.

NOTE: Above all, please remember, I want to ensure your success as young scholars and historians. Please see me if you are having difficulties in the course.

******IMPORTANT NOTES******

**King's University College at Western University
HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

Policy Regarding Essay Submission, Late Essay, and Written Work Not Submitted

1. A penalty of five (5) marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after the deadline.
2. A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day, including weekends.
3. No essays will be accepted after the 7th day beyond the deadline, including weekends.
4. Exceptions to the above provisions will be granted only on the basis of
 - (a) humanitarian grounds (**Note:** In fairness to all students, documented evidence will be required when a death or serious illness in the family has occurred);
 - (b) medical grounds for which written proof must be provided
5. Computer breakdowns will not be considered under provision 4 (a).
6. Essays are due uploaded to OWL on the date specified.
7. A student who fails to submit all the required written assignments which together make up the "Essay" component of the course will not receive credit for the course.

Prerequisites and Antirequisites: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enrol in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

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 I will not grade course work on a retroactive basis.

Late and/or Missed Assignments:

Please see the King's "Policy Regarding Essay Submission, Late Essays, and Written Work Not Submitted" for a detailed explanation of the History Department policies.

Academic Considerations:

The Research/Historiography essay 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.

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

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>

Class Policy on Generative AI

Within this course, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc., are permitted exclusively for: [e.g. information-gathering and preliminary research purposes; development of an essay outline]. If AI tools are used, students **must** acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

POLICY REGARDING PLAGIARISM

Preamble: Any written text (and supporting materials), whether printed (e.g. a book, an article, a pamphlet) or "manuscript" (e.g. ms. for a scholarly paper or a dissertation), **is the property of its author[s]**. Therefore, any use of any part of such materials **must be acknowledged**. When the use is "indirect", as in a summary of information and/or ideas, the "borrowing" is acknowledged with a footnote. When the "borrowing" is "direct", that is when a portion of the text or of the supporting material is quoted *verbatim*, the "borrowing" is acknowledged in two ways: (1) quotation marks around the material quoted, and (2) a footnote. It is worth repeating that **both** forms of acknowledgement are **mandatory** when the material is copied directly. Use of on-line sources, **if permitted by your instructor**, must be acknowledged as to specific source, date of access, etc.

Definition: Plagiarism, simply defined, is a form of theft. Were the plagiarised material to be subsequently published it could well lead to legal action against the culprit. Plagiarism generally takes one of two forms (with infinite variations). "Flagrant plagiarism" occurs when portions of one or more written texts are copied, but no quotation marks are used to indicate the borrowing ... although a footnote may appear, which, as indicated above, is not sufficient. "Disguised plagiarism" occurs when the original text is paraphrased in such a way as to "disguise" the theft ... changing a word here and there, etc., even if a footnote is provided. Example: The original text says "The Cabinet met three times in an effort to resolve the issue"; the "paraphrased" text says "The Cabinet met on three occasions in an effort to resolve the problem".

Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for checking. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. For further information see the section on Scholastic Offences at the following web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/universec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

Penalties:

- A. Inadvertent plagiarism results in a warning, followed by a discussion of the problem with the student.
- B. "Flagrant plagiarism" results in a "0" for the assignment.

- C. "Disguised plagiarism" results in a "0" for the assignment.
- D. Submission of an assignment which is also being submitted in another course (or has been submitted in another course in a previous year), results in a "0" for the assignment.
- E. Submission of an assignment prepared by someone other than the alleged author results in a "0" FOR THE COURSE.
- F. Instances of plagiarism may be reported to the Dean.

General Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as, footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

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 your 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.