



Social Justice and Peace Studies 1025F (670)
Summer 2026
Introduction to Social Justice and Peace Studies

Course Information:

Calendar Description: An Interdisciplinary introduction to theories and strategies for pursuing social justice and peace. The course confronts the ethical implications of the structure and ideology of globalization under capitalism, the military industrial complex, war, corporate power, inequality, poverty, labour conflict, indigenous rights, gender issues, diversity, and environment degradation, among other issues.

Prerequisite(s):

Anti-requisite(s):

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50 **Breadth:** Category A

Subject Code: SOCLJUST

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 enroll 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 pre-requisites.

King's University College
Department of Social Justice and Peace Studies
SJPS 1025F 670 – Introduction to Social Justice and Peace Studies
Online Asynchronous Summer 2026

Professor: Dr. A. Larkin (she/her)

Email: alarkin2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By Appointment on Zoom -- Please email with “SJPS 1025, Appointment Request” in subject line to set up a time.

Class times: Lectures will be posted weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Teaching Assistant: Mickey Doyley

Email: mdoyley@uwo.ca

Land Acknowledgement

<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/initiatives/docs/indigenous-land-acknowledgment.pdf>

We/I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, we/I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.

Course Description

An interdisciplinary introduction to theories and strategies for pursuing social justice and peace building. The course confronts the ethical implications of the structure and ideology of globalization under capitalism, the military industrial complex, war, corporate power, inequality, poverty, labour conflict, Indigenous rights, gender issues, diversity, and environmental degradation, among other contemporary issues.

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: The former SJPS 1025E

Co-requisites: None

Learning Objectives

SJPS 1025 is committed to an anti-racist, decolonizing approach to the study of social justice: locally, nationally and globally. This course introduces some of the theories, methods, issues, events and ideas that are the foundation of the study of social justice. As the title suggests, social

justice is not the same as legal justice; some scholars locate the study of social justice as *contentious politics* or the *struggle for liberation from oppression and social inequality*. This course will engage an interdisciplinary lens to critique the ways in which our society, influenced by its history, politics, economics, laws and population have created a world in which some have greater wealth, live in safe, health homes, have access to education, health and other services while others suffer from oppression, social exclusion and violence.

We will explore some of the historical, political and economic roots of social justice issues, and also critique the ways in which our media and culture sustain inequality and oppression.

Although SJPS 1025 is an asynchronous course, (meaning that you can work at your own time), it is also designed to be a highly interactive course: you, your ideas and experiences are key to how you understand, authenticate and ultimately decide to agree or disagree with the ideas and theories presented in class. There will be two key elements to the delivery of this class: taking in resources critically, that is with a certain amount of skepticism, and probing beyond the surface meanings is key to deeper learning. I recommend that students approach each week's readings/recordings/media with questions in mind: Who benefits here? Who is impacted negatively? What are the different sides to the story?

Students in this course will learn to:

- Identify the ways that political, economic and social systems or institutions support and reproduce unjust social relations;
- Analyze the ways in which historical events have established inequality as a normal part of our liberal democratic society;
- Develop strategies to confront social injustice and to work toward just social relations;
- Communicate with those who have diverse values;
- Engage as an ally with those who are experiencing oppression;
- Synthesize the ways that policies, institutions, laws and cultural practices reproduce systems that are either oriented toward justice and peace, or injustice and violence.

Student Evaluation

All assignments will be submitted through the course OWL BrightSpace site. All dates and assignment outlines will be available under the assignments tab on the OWL site.

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| Self- Introduction post to SJPS | 5% |
| Proposal for SJPS Challenge | 10% |
| Responding to the 94 Calls to Action (Due on May 18) | 25% |
| Discussion Posts (Information posted on Brightspace) | 25% |
| Consultation with The Write Place | 5% |
| Final Project: SJPS Challenge Journal (Due June 7) | 30% |

= 100%

Course Assignments & Late Policy

All class assignments will be submitted through OWL. The date and time for all assignments is on the syllabus and on the OWL under the Assignments tab. I understand that sometimes life throws us situations that may make it impossible to submit an assignment on time. IF you cannot submit your assignment on time, please email me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements. If, however, there are no arrangements made for a late submission and an alternative date agreed upon, the instructor reserves the right to award a penalty of 2% per day late until the value is zero. Please reach out if you are unable to meet a deadline!

Class Schedule and Readings

SJPS 1025F 650 is an online course with some synchronous online support throughout the term. Two units will be posted each week; one on Monday and the next on Thursday.

Students *do not have to purchase* any texts for this course. All course materials will be available on the course OWL site.

Please see the Syllabus, Weekly Lessons or Course Readings tab on our course owl site for weekly readings.

A schedule of each week's assignments are included in this syllabus. Readings, videos, documentaries and other resources are available under the 'Lecture Materials' tab on the OWL site for SJPS 1025G 650.

Support for Academic Writing at Kings: The Write Place

Please take the time to look into the services included in your tuition by The Write Place. They will be operating online and in-person this year and can make help with your papers. The staff will not correct your work, but it is an opportunity to work with peer tutors who will read and respond to your work with suggestions to improve your writing. They are also there to help answer questions about formatting, citations, grammar, etc. I strongly encourage each student to take advantage of the tutors and support in this important centre. It will establish a really strong foundation to your academic work; you can either drop in and take your chances that someone can meet with you OR make an appointment.

The Write Place is located in the Kings Student Life Centre. Their website address is:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-departments/modern-languages/thewrite-place/>.

All in-text citations for assignments and papers in this course should be **APA Style**. If you are unfamiliar with APA Style, please check out the website below. This is considered to be one of the

most thorough APA citation sites on the internet. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to the instructor or the TA.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/citation_style_chart.html

More information and links to sites that provide examples for citations will be posted on the class OWL site.

Current Events Information

In this course, we will be keeping up with relevant current events. I recommend that you read a daily news source to keep up with local, national and international developments related to the course. *The Globe and Mail*, *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *Democracy Now!* or other mainstream digital news source that will help you to connect what you are learning in class to what is going on in the world, in addition to critical websites sites that address issues from diverse perspectives, i.e. Democracy Now (a progressive news source in the US, with a strong social justice perspective).

Critical sites will give you alternative perspectives from mainstream media. This is just a suggested list and is by no means comprehensive:

- APTN: Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (<https://www.aptn.ca/>)
- The Breach Media (<https://breachmedia.ca/>)
- The Narwhal (<https://thenarwhal.ca/>)
- Canadaland (<https://www.canadaland.com/>)
- Truthdig (<http://www.truthdig.com>)
- Truthout (www.truthout.com)
- Democracy Now! (www.democracynow.org)
- Pro Publica (www.propublica.com)
- Mining Watch (<http://www.miningwatch.ca>)
- Upside/Down World (<http://upsideanddownworld.org/main/>)
- iPolitics.ca. (www.ipolitics.ca)
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives ()
- Canadian Dimension (canadiandimension.com)
- Rabble.ca (www.rabble.ca)
- The Canadian Progressive (<http://www.canadianprogressiveworld.com/activism/>)
- The Activist Network (<http://www.activist.ca>)
- Climate Action Network Canada (<http://climateactionnetwork.ca>)
- Centre for Social Justice (www.socialjustice.org)
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (www.ccpa.ca)
- Al Jazeera (aljazeera.com)
- Counterpunch (www.counterpunch.com)
- Fox news (www.foxnews.com)
- The Fraser Institute (www.fraserinstitute.com)

Netiquette (Online Expectations)

Respect online is absolutely essential for an SJPS course. There are undoubtedly a wide range of perspectives, opinions, ideas and priorities among the many students in this class. Please think before you post or speak in an online forum. Learning to engage in constructive dialogue, especially over issues you may disagree with others, is one of the skills we emphasize in the SJPS program. There will be no tolerance for disrespect directed toward other members of this class, written or verbal, online or in person. Many of the topics we will cover in this course deal with sensitive and/or contested issues, and many may provoke an emotional response, particularly in a time of intense political dissension. I will always try to give a warning if there is sensitive or offensive material in anything that you are going to read, watch or listen to in this class.

There will inevitably be moments of disagreement among students or resistance to what different authors or students contribute to the discussion. It is essential that an environment of respect and patience is maintained with respect to others' opinions, and that each member of the class exercises empathy for others' experiences. This is crucial to maintaining a class environment conducive to critical thinking, insightful reflection and open debate. More information will be forthcoming including guidelines for addressing disagreements in both written and verbal formats. I will post a guide to class netiquette on the OWL Site.

Please contact me immediately (alarkin2@uwo.ca) if you have an issue or concern with topics addressed, material assigned, or comments made in class. I am deeply committed to responding to students' concerns and will set up a time for us to meet and discuss any issues.

Statement on AI Usage in this Course on Assignments or Exams

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. If you use AI to support your work you must cite it the same way that you would if you used another external source. 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. Students 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. Critical thinkers 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.

Counselling & Support Services

Personal wellness is extremely important for academic success. Please take advantage of the resources available to you here at King's. It is not uncommon at all for students to begin to feel stress and anxiety as term assignments come due and exams begin. Academic support and personal counselling services are available through King's Student Services.

If you are in need of support, please contact:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/>. They can provide you with a wide range of services from personal counselling, academic accommodations and other wellness information. Check out their website for more details.

GENDER-BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

King's at Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

[Mental Health and Wellness at King's – King's University College](#)

You can reach some supports at King's by emailing CARE@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can reach some supports at King's by emailing CARE@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Case Manager/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.

FRIDAY MAKE-UP EXAMS

Please note that Friday, Make-Up Exams may **only** be written with the instructor's consent.

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 [here](#).

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://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

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 https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

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://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-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/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

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://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/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.

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://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

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 [here](#).

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/OriginalityReports-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.