



Social Justice and Peace Studies 2304F (570)
SOCIAL NETWORK OF POWER AND PRIVILEGE
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: K. Baltzer-Jaray

Email: kbaltzer@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course will prepare students to be aware of power relations and ethical complexities in experiential learning or practicum settings, and to be reflexive and critical about their own positions, motives and potential influence.

Pre-or Corequisite(s): Social Justice and Peace Studies 1025F/G and Social Justice and Peace Studies 1026F/G, or permission of the department.

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 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.

King's | Western University | London Canada

Fall 2025

SJPS 2304F (570) – Social Network of Power & Privilege

Mode of instruction: In-person

Professor: Dr. KBJ

Location: TBA

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30pm, or by appt. on Zoom

Course Description & Particulars

This course explores the construction of social power, privilege and identity formation in local and global settings. In this class we will seek to connect theories of power and privilege with contemporary events. Students will examine critical social issues and seek to understand how institutions, attitudes, stereotypes, history, culture and geography work to exclude or marginalize some social groups from full participation in the community while simultaneously facilitating access for others. Some of the questions that we will explore through texts, media and policy include: What is 'privilege'? How do we identify and respond to power and authority? What is power and how is it exercised through institutions, laws, policies, media and culture? How do our own different identities affect our position in society and the ways we understand Others? This course is designed to prepare students to critically analyze inequality, poverty and injustice through history, social policy and theory.

Diversity, inclusion, equity, and decolonization are core principles of this course and its design. The readings for this course will consist of theory from a diverse set of scholars on topics that touch on different forms of power and privilege. After reading these, we will explore them and apply them to a variety of cases and current news items.

Prerequisites: Social Justice and Peace Studies 1025F/G and Social Justice and Peace Studies 1026F/G; or permission of the department

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

This course will enable students to:

- Develop a set of critical lenses and tools to promote understanding of the impact of systemic discrimination and structural violence on marginalized groups.
- Analyze the ways in which power operates through social institutions including government, media education, healthcare and other social institutions.
- Identify the ways in which social, political and economic privilege accrues to particular groups in society and is denied to others.
- Explore the intersections between race, gender, status, ethnicity and ability with the discourses of social privilege.
- Engage with multiple theoretical perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches to deeply understand the implications of privilege and power for social justice
- Become reflexive and critically self-aware of one's own biases, expectations and resistances related to social privilege
- Strategize, in collaboration with others, to create more inclusive and equitable communities
- Employ new ways and forms of thinking about the ways in which society creates, enforces and perpetuates systems of power and privilege

In addition, the course will assist students in developing aptitude in:

- analytical, critical, and creative thinking;
- critical reading;
- application skills;
- oral and written communication skills; and
- research

Student Evaluation

Engagement (continuous)	15%
Midterm Test (in class; Oct. 15)	20%
Critical Reflection x 2 (1000 – 1200 words; Due Oct. 3 & Nov. 14)	30%
Research Essay (2200 – 2500 words; Due Dec. 5 th)	35%

- Please note, you must complete the midterm, reflections, and the essay in order to receive a passing grade.
- Academic consideration for the midterm test requires submission of formal supporting documentation. Other written assignments come with a grace period of 12 hours where no late penalty will be applied, and permission to submit on a later date can be arranged with sufficient notice ahead of the deadline.

Engagement

This course, by design, is meant to be a group discussion as much as lecture. While there will be moments of lecture, the hope is to have lots of conversations with each other as we apply theory and talk about power and privilege. Engagement in this course is thoughtful participation in the weekly class discussions we have together.

To get the full 15%, you must engage in one of the two following ways in 8 different lectures: (1) ask a question or offer a thoughtful comment during class time related to material or conversations happening (you can do this vocally or you can submit a written question/comment to be to read), or (2) You can bring in an example from the news (global, national, or local; link to share) that fits our topic that week and we will discuss it together. Your contributions will be recorded and logged into Gradebook.

Reflection Assignments

You will be asked to submit 2 reflection responses for this course. The questions will be posted on Brightspace well in advance of the due date and you will submit a written response that is roughly 1000 – 1200 words. More information will be available on BrightSpace and in class.

Research Essay

You will submit a research essay at the end of our term together. It is required to be 2200 – 2500 words in length. More information will be available on BrightSpace and in class.

Reading Schedule

You do not need to buy a textbook for this course. All required readings and media will be available in BrightSpace, most in the Course Readings tab which links to the library. Approximate reading demand for this course is about 30 – 40 pages per week, which includes academic and non-academic pieces, and sometimes media to watch/listen to. It will be clearly

marked on the syllabus when a film will be viewed in class, in which case you do not need to watch it before class.

Additional Notes

1. **Notice of Turnitin Analysis:**
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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
2. **Policy on AI Use:** Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.
3. Expectations, extensions, accommodations, make-ups, etc. will be covered on the longer syllabus and discussed as assignments and exams occur.

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-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.