



Social Justice and Peace Studies 3364F (570)
ART, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND GENDER
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: K. Baltzer-Jaray

Email: kbaltzer@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

Art can be powerful and accessible activism. Whether it's tattoos, graffiti, drag performance, textiles, or punk music, art pushes issues of social injustice and inequality into the limelight, and advances discussion of them. This course will engage critical and intersectional lenses to explore art as a practice of social justice.

Antirequisite(s): Social Justice and Peace Studies 3373F/G if taken in Summer 2022.

Prerequisite(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 3364F (570) – Art, Social Justice & Gender

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

Art can be very powerful and accessible activism. Whether its tattoos, graffiti, drag performance, textiles, zines, or punk music, art has a way of drawing attention to issues of social injustice and inequality into the limelight, and advancing the discussion of them in the popular culture and the political spheres. The 20th and 21st centuries present us with a plethora of ways that art has become involved in social justice activism, raising awareness about and fighting racism, sexism and misogyny, homophobia and transphobia, classism, colonialism and imperialism, censorship, exploitation, and war. In this course we will critically and with an intersectional lens engage in the topic of art as social justice, and along the way wade into the debates of the art world, such as the nature of artist responsibility, and gender equity and justice.

In this course, we will engage with materials that are inclusive of 2SLGBTQIA+ and BIPOC. We will also often be immersed in social justice issues related to colonization, imperialism, sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, & HIV/AIDS. Trigger warnings will be issued when needed, but it is good to understand the potential for any lecture to involve sensitive material.

Art is taken in a very broad sense: fine arts like painting, sculpture, sketching, photography, collage/mixed media, and performance [i.e., spoken word, noise, or dance]; music; film; poetry, zines, collage, and other writing; tattooing, modification, & body art; graffiti & defacement (i.e., various forms of public art); and textiles, protest signs, stitching & quilting.

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

This course will enable students to:

- a better understanding of the historical and ongoing debates about the art as social justice;
- a clear picture of the power & consequences of art and artists being involved in various social justice initiatives and conversations;
- a recognition of how art is so much more than just institutional theory;
- understand how art as social justice is a mutually influencing relationship – art influences our understanding of social justice issues and we influence the conversations art can/does have about social justice issues;
- understand the plethora of gender issues and other inequities at work historically and contemporaneously within art institutions and movements.

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

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| Engagement | 10% |
| Art/Artist Research Project (Various due dates) | 40% |
| Critical Reflection (1000 – 1200 words; Due Oct. 3) | 20% |
| Research Essay (3000 words; Due Dec. 5 th) | 30% |

*Please note, you must complete all components in this course in order to get a passing grade. In other words, if one component is incomplete you will not pass.

Engagement

This course, by design, is meant to be more like a seminar than simply a lecture. While there will be moments of lecture, the hope is to have lots of conversations with each other. Engagement in this course is thoughtful participation in the weekly class discussions we have together.

To get the full 10% you must ask a question or offer a thoughtful comment during class time related to material or conversations happening in 10 different lectures. You can do this vocally or if you are not comfortable, you can give me a written submission in class to read.

Art/Artist Research Project

This project has 3 components to it and in total is worth 40% of the course grade:

1. Pick an artist/art movement and submit a short write up (250 – 300 words) briefly explaining the reason for your choice and the relationship the artist/art movement has to social justice. This is worth 10% and is due Sept 12th.
2. Art Share Presentation: You will pick a class timeslot between Oct. 23 and Dec. 4 and do a short presentation for the class of your artist/art movement and the social justice issues they/it speaks to, providing factual details, visuals, and hosting a short Q&A. This is worth 25%.
3. Connecting Comments: Offer a comment in 5 different lectures that shows a clear connection between your artist/art movement and the class materials and themes. This is worth 5%.

Reflection Assignment

A reflection question will be posted in mid-September and you will submit a written response that is 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 3000 – 3200 words in length. More information will be available on BrightSpace and in class.

Office Hours & Email

My office hours will be Thursdays before our class, from 1:30 – 2:30pm or by appt. on Zoom.

I am also available by email if you should need anything. I will read and reply to emails as quickly as I can but because I teach more than one course, I simply ask that you give me at least 48 hours to reply. Please also put 'SJPS3364' in the subject line or refer in your email that you are in my SJPS Art 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 35 – 40 pages per week, which includes academic and non-academic pieces, and sometimes media to watch/listen to.

Additional Notes

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>).

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.

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](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses%20enrollment/exams%20and%20tests/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.