



Social Justice and Peace Studies 1025G (570) (571) (572) (573)
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE STUDIES
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: T. Malleson
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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 environmental degradation, among other issues.

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.

Introduction to Social Justice and Peace Studies (SJP1025G)

Location: TBD

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Professor: Tom (Tee) Malleson, PhD (they/them)

Email: tmalleso@uwo.ca

Office Hours: *Office hours information can be found on OWL Brightspace*

Teaching Assistants:

Laura Ramirez <lramire7@uwo.ca>

Jennifer Pilling <jpillin@uwo.ca>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to issues of social justice and peace. We investigate some of the most vital and pressing problems confronting the world today: why is there such poverty side-by-side enormous wealth? Why is inequality worsening in many countries around the world? What leads corporations to damage the environment? How do structures of patriarchy and racism perpetuate oppression? What is the relationship between capitalism and war? What does oppression and exploitation look like in the 21st century? And how are these issues interrelated? This course begins by describing the origins and development of global capitalism. After investigating some of the main sources of contemporary injustice, we explore the possibilities for resistance and the creation of more just alternatives. The course aims to increase students' sensitivities to the injustices that exist in Canada and abroad, as well as developing our abilities to think critically and see the world from different perspectives.

READINGS

Readings will be posted on OWL. You must do all the required readings every week.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Responses: 20% (6 x 300-400 words). Although you must do the required reading every week, you only need to submit responses for 6 weeks. The response will be a short (roughly two paragraph) answer to all of the questions listed below, under each week in the course schedule. The point of the reading response is to demonstrate that you have done the reading and understood the material. Some of the questions are general questions about your own beliefs. These questions do not have right or wrong answers – the point is for you to pause and reflect critically on your own life and the society in which you live. It is fine for these to be quite informal. You don't need a thesis statement or a bibliography or anything like that. I just want to hear your own thoughts.

Students are free to submit a response for any six weeks of your choice. The responses must be submitted at the *beginning* of the relevant class. For example, if you choose to write a response for the week on Global Migration, then you must submit a hardcopy of the reading response at the beginning of that lecture. ***Please remember to put your name and the name of your TA on the top of your hand-in. Please do NOT email responses or post on OWL.*** Late responses will not be accepted.

Midterm: 25%. The midterm will be a short-answer test based on identifying and stating the significance of key ideas. All the ideas and terms will be provided ahead of time.

Final Exam: 30%. During exam period.

Participation: 25%. Students must attend all classes and tutorials. The participation grade will be given by your TA and will be based on attendance and active participation.

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that you will attend every lecture and tutorial. I will endeavor to make the lecture slides available online. However, these slides are *absolutely not* an alternative to attending lecture. They provide only the bare bones of the information, and will not be comprehensible outside of the context of the lecture. I provide them so that students can actively listen during lecture without feeling the need to copy down the slides. **Please do the assigned readings every week before coming to class.** That will allow you to engage more deeply with the material and will foster better discussions in tutorials. Lastly, I will strive to construct a respectful and inclusive learning environment. In order for this to occur, please try to be as compassionate and empathetic to others as possible. Hateful or oppressive behavior will not be tolerated.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1 - Introduction

2 - Colonial Origins of Capitalism

- Howard Zinn: Columbus, the Indians and Human Progress
- Hayden King: Indigenous cultures rivalled those of many other civilizations

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *According to Zinn, what was the impact of colonialism on indigenous peoples?*
2. *Were indigenous societies “inferior” to Western societies?*

3 - Colonialism Today

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Knock on the Door

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *What is the legacy of the Residential Schools today?*
2. *Has your family personally benefited or suffered from colonialism? Do you have any responsibility or obligations to indigenous people?*

4 - The Ideology and Culture of Capitalism

- Watch youtube video: “History of Ideas – Capitalism”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dluaW9YWqEU>)
- Watch youtube video: “Milton Friedman: The Essence of Capitalism”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p8IVKFB25Q>)
- Book Reviews of Milton Friedman’s ‘Capitalism and Freedom’

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Why does Friedman believe that capitalism promotes freedom? Is he right?*

5 - Contemporary Capitalism: Neoliberalism and Social Democracy

- George Monbiot, “Neoliberalism, the ideology at the root of all our problems.”
- Paul Krugman, “Trump versus the Socialist Menace”
- Watch two videos:
 - (a) “What is Social Democracy?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvJ8YDma7Wk&t=9s>
 - (b) “Welfare State and Social Democracy”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv3hMfTTCfY>

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *What are the core ideas of neoliberalism?*
2. *What are the core ideas of social democracy?*

6 - Socialist Critique of Capitalism – Part 1

- **Watch youtube video: “Why You Should Be A Socialist In 2024”**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07E4iQ5z9iY>
- **David Graeber – Are You an Anarchist? The Answer May Surprise You!**

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Does Anarchism mean violence and chaos?*
2. *Reflect on how capitalism has impacted your life (For instance, you might consider a job that you’ve had, what has the relationship between you and the boss felt like? Have your jobs felt like a free and fair exchange of labour for money, or has it felt like exploitation? How does it feel to you that some people are very rich and some people are very poor?)*

7 - Socialist Critique of Capitalism – Part 2

- Erik Olin Wright: How to Be an Anti-Capitalist in the 21st Century
- Samuel Arnold: What Is Democratic Socialism and Why Is It So Popular?
- Ha-Joon Chang: Marxism (from *Economics: A Users Guide*)

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Marx thinks that workers are exploited under capitalism. Do you agree?*
2. *In your view, what is the biggest problem with capitalism?*

8 - Introduction to the Israel-Palestine Conflict

- White: Israeli Apartheid: A Beginner’s Guide (read Part 1, pages 15-43)
- Amnesty International: Israel’s Apartheid (read the Executive Summary, pages 11-35)
- Recommended but not required: Report by the UN on the nonviolent protests in Gaza in 2018

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Do you think it’s fair to characterize Israel’s relationship to Palestine as “settler colonialism” or “apartheid”?*
2. *Do you think it’s ever fair to criticize Israel, or is that anti-Semitism?*

9 - Structural Oppression and Racism

- Dowsett: What riding my bike has taught me about white privilege
- Ta-Nahisi Coates: Letter to My Son.

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *How does riding a bike explain white privilege?*
2. *What emotions do you feel after reading Coates’s letter? (There is no right or wrong answer)*

10 - Structural Oppression and Patriarchy

- Ann Oakley: Gender versus Sex
- bell hooks: Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression
- No More Miss America

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *What is the difference between sex and gender?*
2. *What does it mean to be a feminist, and are you one (why or why not)?*

11 - Global Migration

- Guardian Article – Ten Myths About Migration
- Joseph Carens – The Case for Open Borders

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Should Canada be a welcoming place for immigrants, or should it remain a majority white, Christian country?*
2. *Reflect on how migration has impacted your life (for instance, is your family indigenous to this land? If not, why did your family migrate?)*

12 - Reinventing Economics/Communities & Class Wrap-Up

- Tom Malleson, *Fired Up About Capitalism* (read pages 99-120)
- Watch these short videos
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnqNjf5UM6Y>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1mg_GreRDg
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXK591Rp4BU>

Questions for Reading Response:

1. *Do you think Canada should implement an Unconditional Basic Income?*
2. *What kind of society do you think would be better than the kind of neoliberal capitalism that we currently have?*

Final Exam During Exam Period

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES AND PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence! All work must be your own, including both ideas and wording. When you take an idea or passage from another author, you must acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by always using proper referencing through citations and reference list. Failure to do so is plagiarism, which is a scholastic offence.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation

marks around the material and reference the source and author. Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!

4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.

5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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>

If you do not want your paper submitted to turnitin, please inform me in writing and I will arrange for an alternative (an oral defense of the paper).

AI/ChatGPT/Grammarly etc.

You may use ChatGPT or Wikipedia or any online source in order to read about and learn about a topic. However, you may NOT submit sentences or ideas from online sources and pretend they are yours. That is plagiarism and a serious offence.

If you wish to use words or ideas in your work that comes from ChatGPT or Wikipedia or Grammarly or any other online source, *you must always include a citation*. If you are ever unsure, it's always best to add a reference.

LATE WORK

Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 2% per day including weekend days. If you have extenuating circumstances and cannot submit an assignment on time, please consult with me in the first instance to request an extension. You

may need to provide documentation to the Academic Counselling Office. Please see <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp>

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

The best way to contact me is to come to office hours. You are free to email me, but please respect that I receive a large number of emails and therefore it may take me a couple of days to respond.

MEDICAL ACCOMODATION

You may be unable to complete an assignment or other course requirements owing to medical reasons. Students seeking accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth more than 10% of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Accommodation cannot be provided by the instructor or department.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable Student Medical Certificate, please see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

WESTERN'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternative format or if you require any other arrangements to make this

course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at ssd@uwo.ca or (519) 661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. See www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/ for more information.

SUPPORT SERVICES

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development Services at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices may be used in class for relevant educational purpose only.

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.