



SOCLJUST 2305F (570)
Living a Just Life in an Unjust World
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: T. Malleson
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Course Information

Calendar Description: The first part of this course investigates a number of philosophical debates about what it means to live justly. The second part exposes students to a range of possible career paths in order to gain some insight into how one might reconcile progressive values with living in the real world.

Antirequisite(s): Social Justice and Peace Studies 3382F/G

Prerequisite(s): [Social Justice and Peace Studies 1025F/G](#) and [Social Justice and Peace Studies 1026F/G](#); or 1.0 course at the 2200-level or above, or permission from the Department.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: SOCLJUST

Mode of Instruction: In-person

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.

SJPS 2305F: Living A Just Life in an Unjust World

Time: Tuesday 2:30 – 5:30pm

Location: TBA

Professor: Tee Malleson (they/them)

Email: tmalleso@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBA (or by appointment)

Office: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How can we live a just life in an unjust world? This course investigates a range of answers to this question from a philosophical as well as a practical point of view. We explore some of the deepest questions about how we should live, such as: Can a good person be politically neutral? Should people be involved in politics in some form, or is it okay not to care? Should egalitarians donate their income? Is it ethical to eat meat? Are our consumption patterns ecologically sustainable? What does it mean to live ethically in the shadow of climate catastrophe? More broadly, how can we live, love, and work in a way that respects and reflects values of economic, ecological, gender, decolonial, and racial justice? Given that we all need to find a job and survive, this class will sensitize students to the tensions of reconciling one's progressive values with living in the real world. The ultimate aim of the course is to empower students to be better able to live their lives in this complicated world with purpose and integrity.

READINGS

Required readings will be available online through OWL.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2 Quizzes: 25% (12.5% each). The quizzes will happen in class. They are designed to test whether you have done the readings and attended lecture. Most of the questions on the quiz will be about the readings. So, you must do all the readings listed in the syllabus. The quizzes will typically ask you to identify the main point of each reading. In other words, the quizzes are designed to be easy if you've done the reading, but hard if you haven't.

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

Final Exam: 35%. During exam period. This will be a short-answer exam and will be based on identifying and stating the significance of key ideas. All the terms will be provided ahead of time.

Participation: 15% Students are expected to attend all classes having done the readings. Your participation grade is based on active and informed involvement in class discussion (you will not get marks simply for attending).

Any student who has been regularly volunteering for at least a couple of months with any kind of activist group or charity is eligible for a 5% bonus mark. Simply email me with the details and provide a reference phone number for someone who I can contact to confirm. (This must be genuine *volunteering to support others* done out of the goodness of your heart. Anything that's for pay, or an assignment for a different class, does not count).

- Please note that Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.
- As of September 1, 2026, students will incur a fee of \$45 per make-up assessment booked with the Exam Office.
- As of September 1, 2026, students will incur a fee of \$75.00 for any Special Exam booked outside of the designated special exam days. The designated Special Exam Days for 2026-2027 are January 8 and 9, 2027 and May 7 and 12, 2027.

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that you will attend and participate in every class. 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 come to class having completed the assigned readings. You will be able to absorb much more of the lecture material this way, and will be better able to contribute to discussion. Finally, I expect that you will help me maintain a respectful classroom and a constructive learning environment. This means that you will be compassionate and empathetic towards others by listening attentively to their perspectives and by never engaging in hateful speech or behaviors. I will be cultivating an inclusive environment that facilitates learning for all, and I hope you will help me in doing this by not excluding anyone or any perspective.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1 – Introduction

2 – Should I Care About Politics?

- Howard Zinn – *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train* (read the Introduction, p12-22).
- Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- Spend 10 minutes reading over where the parties stand on the main issues (make notes of the things that stand out to you): <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/features/2025/federal-party-platforms/>

3 – Should I Engage in Consumer Activism?

- Excerpts from John Bowes (Ed), *The Fair Trade Revolution*, chapter 1 & 4.
- Phillip Chmel – “You Can’t Save the Planet by Yourself”

4 – Should I Be an Activist? The Case of Genocide in Palestine [Quiz 1 in class]

- 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

5 – Should I Donate Some of My Income?

- Excerpt from Peter Singer (2019), *The Life You Can Save*
- Excerpt from David Schweickart, “Global Poverty: Alternative Perspectives on What We Should Do—and Why”

6 - Is It Problematic To Eat Meat?

- Peter Singer (2015), *Animal Liberation*. 40th anniversary edition. Read Chapter 1, skim chapter 3, read chapter 4.

7 - How Can I Live Sustainably?

- Mike Berners-Lee, *The Carbon Footprint of Everything* (2022). Spend an hour reading about the carbon footprint of different things so that you get a sense of what matters a little and what matters a lot. Make sure to also read the sections on “Burning the world’s fossil fuel reserves” and “What can we do?”

8 - How Should I Love? [Midterm in class]

- Excerpts from Easton and Hardy, *The Ethical Slut*, (second edition, 2009)
- Excerpts from Tristan Taormino, *Opening Up: A Guide to Creating and Sustaining Open Relationships*.

9 - How can Men and Women Live Together? Navigating Emotional Labour, Domestic Labour, and Toxic Masculinity

- Emotional Labour – The Metafilter Condensed. (You do not need to read every word of this. Spend an hour reading any parts that you like).

10 - Justice at my Place of Work.

- <https://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008.01.01-Factsheet-UnionMythsFacts.pdf>
- Excerpts from *1919: a graphic history of the Winnipeg General Strike*

11 - How can I Decolonize my mind? [Quiz 2 in class]

- Excerpts from Robin Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Read chapters: *Skywoman*, *Allegiance to Gratitude*, *Sitting in a Circle*
- Excerpts from Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada*. Read chapters 1, 2, 17, Afterword

12 - How can I Unlearn Racism?

- Watch the first 3 episodes of *When They See Us*, on Netflix. (We will watch the final episode together in class)

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES AND PLAGIARISM

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).

LATE WORK

Deadlines will be 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.

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: [www.uwo.ca](http://www.uwo.ca/appeals>medicalform_15Jun) (appeals>medicalform_15Jun)

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 2026-27

1. Academic Accommodations (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](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the

Student Absence Portal, linked on this website:

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

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual 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](#).

You can reach 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 also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cellphone, 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 to**

check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course. Note that although some

courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.