



Lakehead University
Human Rights and Civil Liberties
POLI/CRIM/INDI 2313 SDE
Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Cain,
Associate Professor and Chair (Political Science)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

The study of human rights with emphasis on Canadian civil liberties, the Bill of Rights and constitutional developments. The course also examines civil liberties, human rights and minority group protection in an international context.

The primary aim of this course is not to simply to cover specific information or to provide students with pre-arranged sets of learned material. Rather, this course is meant to develop and enhance students' ability to: (a) freely partake in the art of thoughtful and reasoned discussion about the most important human questions; (b) produce reasoned and well organized writings about the most important human questions; (c) read, analyze, and consider important and complex texts and ideas with care and insight, attempting to understand them as they were understood by the authors themselves, while reflecting on how their insights might illuminate and guide our own lives.

Of special concern to this course will be the historical development of human rights concepts, fundamental arguments for human equality and fundamental civil liberties centred on the case study of American slavery, key international and Canadian human rights and civil liberty documents, and the exploration of key human rights issues through an examination of important Canadian and international court cases that shed light on some key areas of human rights and civil liberties in Canada.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade Distribution

Perusall Assignments (Reading, Annotation and Discussion):

100% (If the option to write a final exam is not exercised—this is the default marking distribution for everyone in the course)

OR

70% (If option to write a final exam is exercised. See how to exercise the option below)

Optional Final Exam—May 20

30% (if option is exercised by May 18).

Exercising Final Exam Option

The final exam is optional. To write the exam and have it count toward your final grade you must inform Dr. Cain via email that you will write the exam. The deadline to inform him is Wednesday, May 18 at 11:59 pm (no exceptions). If you do not make contact with him, your marking scheme will remain in the default setting.

Note 1 : If you write the exam and have not informed Dr. Cain that you will be doing so by the deadline, your exam will not be marked and 100% of your grade will be based on your Perusall marks.

Note 2: If you say that you will write the exam and do not, you will receive a mark of 0% on the exam, and it will count toward your final grade.

Readings

All class materials (videos and readings) can be found on the. perusall.com course website. One must be purchased through the Perusall website.

Perusall Assignments

Perusall Account Set-up

Students are required to create a Perusall account on perusall.com and enter the course code **CAIN-TQNJ9** upon registration.

Assignments

All assignments will be posted to Perusall, and will require students to read, annotate and engage in written discussion about the assigned readings. The instructor has designed these assignments to encourage, develop and measure students' engagement of the major themes and questions of this course.

Assignment Deadlines

Each assignment has a deadline, but students are allowed to submit comments for partial credit past the deadline day until 11:59 pm on the last day of the course (May 20). However, credit declines linearly from each due date; comments earn full credit at the initial deadline and declining credit for each day late.

The readings and videos assigned in this course often involve complicated ideas and difficult arguments. Moreover, the presentation of these ideas and arguments sometimes takes forms that may not be familiar to students. Students should therefore be prepared to complete their readings slowly and should be aware that needing to read the texts at least several times to grasp their content is to be expected.

Assignment Marking

Each Perusall assignment is equally weighted. All assignments are required and should be reviewed in the order they are posted.

To achieve high marks, students need to demonstrate a careful and thorough reading of the assigned texts. In doing so, they should

1. Engage one another and the readings through thoughtful, charitable, and reasoned discussion
2. Read and analyze important texts and ideas with care and insight, considering the questions they raise and how their arguments shed light their own lives and the political order in which they live
3. Do the above in a way that responds to (without being limited by) the instructor's reading questions found at the introduction to each assignment.

Optional Final Exam

First, please see above for how to elect to take the final exam. The exam will be based on the course readings, especially as guided by the reading questions set out at the beginning of each Perusall assignment. Students are expected to display a good knowledge of the assigned readings, as well as the ability to analyze and interpret those readings in a way that regularly engages the arguments of the text through quotations and citations.

Other Policies and Guidelines

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected of all Lakehead University students. Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to make themselves fully familiar with Lakehead's policies in this area. Although all these policies will be enforced in full, for this course it is worth emphasizing the following:

1. Plagiarism involves presenting another's work, ideas, theories, or interpretation as one's own.
2. It is academically dishonest to share one's own work in order that someone else may commit plagiarism.
3. Therefore, all online tests and exams must be completed individually without any assistance from other persons: giving or receiving assistance during a test or exam is a serious breach of academic honesty.

Communication

Any updates will be provided via email using student's lakeheadu email accounts, so students should check those regularly.