

HIST 2400 W
History of Human Rights and Social Justice in the Modern World

Winter 2015

Instructor: George Buri

Room: 105 EITC E2

Time: MWF 9:30-10:20

Required Books: There will be no textbook for this course. Students will be assigned a series of readings that are available on D2L. See the class schedule for details

Office Hours: I will be in my office 343 University Collage Tuesday and Thursday from 9:45-11:00 am. Please feel free to drop by to discuss assignments etc. If this is not convenient we can set up another time to meet or you can e-mail me at George.buri@umanitoba.ca

Objectives: This course will examine the emergence of the modern human rights era and social justice movements globally. Areas of study include: The origin of human rights and political attempts at securing rights; non-Western conceptions of rights; workplace rights; indigenous rights; women's and gender rights.

Assignments:

1. Primary Document Essay = 20% (January 30)
2. Critical Reviews = 2x10% (various due dates: see class schedule)
3. Research Essay = 30% (March 20)
4. Final Exam = 30%

All assignments are to be typed, double spaced and in 12 point font with standard margins. Citations should be in the form of footnotes or endnotes that follow Chicago Style.

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must pass the requirement for written English in order to pass the course.

Primary Document Essay: Choose a primary source document related to human rights from the list provided. The documents can be found online through D2L. Analyze and review the document by answering the following questions: Why is the document historically significant? What rights are claimed in the document and what is the basis for claiming them? What limitations are present in the document? How does the document reflect the historical context in which it was created? You may extend your analysis of the document beyond these questions as well. It is recommended that you consult secondary sources in order to better understand and analyze the document. The essay should be 4-5 pages (1000-1250 words) in length.

Critical Review: There are five articles assigned as required for reading in this course. You are to provide a short (2-3 page/500-750 words) critical review of two of the articles. Each review is due the day that particular article is to be discussed in class (see class schedule below). In writing your critical review identify the author's thesis and evaluate how well the author has argued this thesis. How does the article contribute to an understanding of the history of human rights and social justice? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the article?

Research Essay: Choose any movement for social justice (in a single state or across international borders) and explore how the movement's struggle played out over time. Discuss what the goals of this movement were, whether they were achieved or not and what tactics were used in attempting to achieve them. Critically evaluate the movement and discuss the internal and external challenges it faced. The research essay is to be 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words) in length. A handout on essay writing is available on D2L.

Exam: The exam will consist entirely of essay questions in which you will be required to develop and argue a thesis using the information learned in this course. A list of potential essay questions will be distributed prior to exam.

Late policy: For Essays you will lose one grade for every class that your essay is late. If you cannot hand your essay to me in person it may be handed into the history office where it will be date stamped. Deadlines may be flexible if you ask for an extension IN ADVANCE (the farther in advance the better). If you are experiencing problems with the workload in this or a combination of courses please come to see me and we can work something out. Please come see me beforehand rather than not handing anything in and then coming to see me afterward.

Regarding Plagiarism: *The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.*

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Marking: Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.

Appeals: Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become property of the faculty of arts and will be subject to destruction.

The Voluntary Withdrawal Date: is March 19 and evaluation of term work will be provided before then.

Class Schedule: Due Dates in Bold

Jan. 7: Introduction to Course

Part I: The Evolution of Human Rights

Jan 9: Defining human rights and social justice

Jan 12-16: Pre-Modern Traditions of Rights and The Enlightenment

Jan 19-21: The Age of Revolution

Jan 23: Seminar: "The Haitian Revolution and the Notion of Human Rights" - Franklin Knight

Jan 26-30: Post WWI and WWII Human Rights regimes / the United Nations

Jan 30: **Primary Document Essay Due**

Feb 2-6: Decolonization and Human Rights in the Cold War Era

Feb 9-11: "Terrorism" and State Security in the 21st Century

Feb 13: Seminar: "Perpetual War" - Jeremy Scahill

Feb 16-20: NO CLASS MID TERM BREAK

Part II: Case Studies in Movements for Social Justice

Feb 23: Chile, Pinochet and Mobilization for Human Rights

Feb 25-27: Film: "No"

Feb 27: Seminar: "Yes or No to Pinochet: Television in the 1988 Chilean Plebiscite"

March 2-6: Workers Movements: The 19th Century

March 9-13: Feminism and Women's rights Movements

March 16-18: LGBT Rights Movements

March 18-20: Film: The Times of Harvey Milk

March 20: **Research Essay Due**

March 25-27: Workers Movements: the 20th Century

March 27: Seminar: "When Sex is Work: Organizing for Labour Rights and Protections" - Emily van der Meulen

March 30 - April 1: De-colonial and Indigenous Rights Movements

April 3: Seminar: (An)other Way of Being Human: "Indigenous Alternative(s) to postcolonial humanism" - Malreddy Pavan Kumar

April 6-10: Racial equality and Civil Rights movements