

History of Human Rights and Social Justice in the Modern World HIST 2400 W
Course Outline Fall 2019

Professor David Churchill, Department of History
361 University College
Email: David.Churchill@umanitoba.ca
Tel: 204-474-9419
Office hours: Monday 10:30am to 12pm or by appointment.

Course Overview

This course traces the emergence of a modern “human rights” culture/regime as a product of the formation and expansion of the system of nation-states and the concurrent rise of value-driven social mobilizations. It juxtaposes these Western and imperial origins of human rights with competing non-Western systems of thought and practices on rights and political practice. The course will give specific attention to rights as protection of the body and personhood and modern Western notions of individualism entailed therein. In our understanding, these rights include social and economic rights. Second, it inquires into rights as they affect groups (such as refugees, ethnicities, “first nations,” but also, potentially, transnational corporations). Such group rights have been a persistent feature of human rights and humanitarian concerns. Third, we will explore the question of (national) sovereignty, the right to self-determination, and its relationship to universal or, respectively, global rights and will discuss in this context, whether a global rights regime is feasible.

Assignment One (10% of course grade): Answer two reading questions from Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*. The questions will be posted on UM Learn. Answers should be 750 words/3 pages in length. **DUE DATE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2019.**

Assignment Two (20% of course grade): Examine a human rights document/charter/declaration from the assigned list. Assignment details and explanation will be posted on UMLearn. Essay must be at least 1000 words/4 pages in length. **DUE DATE MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2019.**

Assignment Three (40% of course grade): Write a didactic panel and background rationale as if you were a curator/researcher at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. Specific description and details of assignment will be posted on UMLearn. Essay must be at least 1800 words/7pages in length. **DUE DATE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019.**

Final Exam (30% of course grade): Date TBA

Marking Scale

A+ 88-100%
A 80-87%
B+ 75-79%

B 70-74%
C+ 65-59%
C 60-64%
D 50-59%
F 0-49%

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course. Late papers will not be accepted without gaining approval in advance from the instructor.

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 the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Assigned Readings: Books (available at the University Bookstore)

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (New York: Mariner Books, 1999).

Peter Kulchyski, *Aboriginal Rights Are Not Human Rights: In Defense of Indigenous Struggles* (Winnipeg ARP, 2013).

Samuel Moyné, *Human Rights and the Uses of History* 2nd Edition (New York: Verso, 2017).

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, Edited and Abridged (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2015).

Voluntary Withdrawal Date

The Voluntary Withdrawal date for this class is November 18, 2019. Students will receive feedback as well as preliminary grades before this date.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty in the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalogue and the Faculty of Arts regulation (http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html) which reads: *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 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.

Computers, Cellular Phones, Tablets etc.

Students will only be allowed to use computers or other electronic devices for taking notes with the permission of instructor. All phones must be on silent/vibrate mode and stored in pockets, bags or purses for the duration of the class. Texting, instant messaging, surfing the web etc. is not appropriate in class, students engaging in any of these activities will be asked to leave.

Essay and Assignment Citations and Format

All assignments should be printed double-spaced and in 12 point Font Size. Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. For a guide to proper citation consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. A copy of this manual can be found in the reference room at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library (LB2369 T8 1987). Or students can consult the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*.

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

Student Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC):

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and

referencing) made available by the History subject librarian. They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Themes and Weekly Readings

Week of September 4th.

Human Rights? Introduction

Samuel Moyné, *Human Rights and the Uses of History* Preface, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2.
Nancy Flowers ed., "A Short History of Human Rights"

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/hreduseries/hereandnow/Part-1/short-history.htm>

Week of September 9th

Universality and Human Rights

Kenneth Cmiel, "The Recent History of Human Rights." *The American Historical Review* 109.1 (2004).

Lyn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights*, 15-69.

Week of September 12th

Empire, Colonialism, and Human Rights

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (New York: Mariner Books, 1999). 1-184.

Week of September 23th

Slavery, Indenture, and Abolition

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (New York: Mariner Books, 1999). 185-306.

Week of September 30th

Women's Rights and Labour Rights

Women's Rights are Human Rights, United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner (2014).

Week of October 7th

International and the Modern Human Rights Regime

Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
Chapter 4.

Week of October 14th

Genocide and the Holocaust

Samuel Moyné, *Human Rights and the Uses of History* Chapter 5.

Week of October 21st

Indigenous Rights and Questions of Sovereignty

Peter Kulchyski, *Aboriginal Rights Are Not Human Rights*

Week of October 28th

Truth Commissions and Reconciliation

Alejandro Castillejo-Cuéllar, "Knowledge, Experience, and South Africa's Scenarios of Forgiveness" *Radical History Review* 97 (2007): 11-42.

Greg Grandin, "The Instruction of Great Catastrophe: Truth Commissions, National History, and State Formation in Argentina, Chile, and Guatemala" *The American Historical Review* vol 110, no 1, (2005).

Week of November 4th

TRC and Cultural Genocide

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, Edited and Abridged (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2015). Selected readings TBA.

Week of November 11th Fall Reading Break

No classes

Week of November 18th

Gender, Sexuality and Trans Rights

Daniella A. Schmidt, "Bathroom Bias: Making the Case for Trans Rights under Disability Law" *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law*. 155 (2013).

Joseph Massad, "Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World" *Public Culture* 14.2 (2002) 361-385.

David S. Churchill; "Transnationalism and Homophile Political Culture in the Postwar Decades". *GLQ* 1 January 2009; 15 (1): 31-66

Week of November 25th

Environmental Rights

Special Report on Human Rights and the Environment. Reports to be assigned in class.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/SREnvironmentIndex.aspx>

Week of December 2nd

In Class Review