

**History of Human Rights and Social Justice in the Modern World HIST 2400 W
Course Outline Fall 2013**

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Office hours: Thursday 10:30-12:00PM 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 four reading questions from either Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* or Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace*. Answers should be between 250 to 300 words per question. The questions will be posted on JUMP. **ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE OCTOBER 3, 2013.**

Assignment Two (20% of course grade): Examine a human rights document/charter/declaration from the assigned list. What sorts of rights are identified and how are they being designated and/or protected? What was the historical context in which this particular document was produced? Were there people who asserted these rights claims and how did they go about doing it? Essay must be at least 1500 words in length. **DUE DATE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2013.**

Assignment Three (40% of course grade): Imagine that you have been hired as a researcher at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and you must write the didactic for one of the major exhibitions at the Museum. These topics may include: the UDHR; the five genocides recognized by the Canadian Government (pick one); the Holocaust; Residential Schools; Abolition Movement; Women’s Suffrage; Reproductive Rights; LGBT rights. You must use a variety of scholarly sources including at least five books, scholarly articles as well as relevant primary sources. Essay must be between 2000 and 2500 words in length. **DUE DATE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013.**

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

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of November 13, 2013.

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 Clapham, *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

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 Defence of Indigenous Struggles* (Winnipeg ARP, 2013)

Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010).

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 Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation

(http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.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. 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 (LB 2369 T8 1987). Or students can consult the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*.

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