

## **History of Human Rights and Social Justice in the Modern World HIST 2400 W Course Outline Fall 2015**

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Office hours: Thursday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 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 JUMP. Answers should be 750 words/3 pages in length. **DUE DATE OCTOBER 1, 2015.**

**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 1000 words/4 pages in length. **DUE DATE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2015.**

**Assignment Three** (40% of course grade): This is a two-part assignment. **First** imagine that you have been hired as a researcher at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (CMHR) 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, Refugees; Chinese Head Tax or other CMHR exhibit. You must use a variety of scholarly sources including need to use at least six secondary sources, consisting of a minimum of three scholarly books and three journal articles, as well as relevant primary

sources. The **Second** part of the assignment is an explanation of how your didactic differs from or echoes that of the CMRH. Provide a rationale for what you chose to include and exclude, how you interpret the historical issue/event being exhibited, and ultimately if you think the CMHR didactic succeeds or fails in terms of public history and education.

Essay must be at least 1800 words/7pages in length. **DUE DATE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015.**

**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)

Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights: A History* (WW Norton, 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)

### **Voluntary Withdrawal Date**

The Voluntary Withdrawal date for this class is November 18, 2015. 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/student\\_responsibilities.html](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 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>