

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Civil Disobedience & Social Protest**

**Course Number and Section**

PHILOSOP

2760F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Steve D'Arcy

**Instructor Email(s):** sdarcy@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This is a course about legal defiance and confrontational protest, in the context of liberal-democratic legal and political systems. We begin by looking at the emergence over the past 150 years of a variety of ways of conceptualizing the idea of legitimate legal defiance or civil disobedience. We then explore case studies that invite us to consider the defensibility of various forms of typically unlawful resistance, including classical civil disobedience, industrial sabotage, 'black blocs,' disruptive direct action, rioting, and various other styles of protest and resistance. Four themes run through the whole course: civic virtue, legal obligation, democratic legitimacy, and gender.

### Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

To evaluate and apply theoretical perspectives in normative ethics, legal philosophy and democratic theory, in order to assess the merits of various styles and genres of militant protest and legal defiance.

To develop greater capacity to weigh with care various morally relevant considerations, including social justice, democratic legitimacy, personal dignity and public welfare.

To become more skilled at articulating verbally and in writing the implications of democratic values for the assessment of particular cases or types of controversial protest.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

We are reading a series of articles and book chapters, all of which will be available on the course Brightspace page, as links, PDFs, or epub files, and none of which require purchases.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

| Assignment                 | Due Date mm/dd/yy | Weight - % |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Midterm                    | 10/21/2026        | 20%        |
| Essay                      |                   | 30%        |
| Final Exam                 | TBA               | 40%        |
| Attendance & Participation |                   | 10%        |

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
  - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.