



PHILOSOPHY 2760F: Civil Disobedience and Social Protest

Professor: Dr. Steve D'Arcy

Course Time & Location: Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm in A1

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3pm to 5pm, Huron V120 (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course about civil 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 civil defiance or militant protest. 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* ('*machismo*').

Antirequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s): None

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The readings, lectures, and class discussions should prepare us to evaluate and apply theoretical perspectives in legal philosophy and democratic theory, in order to assess the merits of various styles and genres of militant protest and civil defiance. By the end of the course, students should be able to carefully weigh considerations of social justice, democratic legitimacy, personal dignity, and public welfare, and to articulate verbally and in writing the implications of these values for the assessment of particular cases or types of controversial protest.

CLASSROOM METHODS

The classes will take the form of weekly lectures, with opportunity for discussion and questions. In order to fully understand and benefit from the lectures, and to contribute fully and effectively to class discussions, students are urged to do the assigned readings prior to the lectures, and to come to class with questions and insights about the readings, to be addressed during the class discussions. Regular class attendance (or equivalent) is required and necessary for success in the course. (**Important note:** classroom methods may need to be adjusted in ways not foreseen in advance, due to the pandemic.)

GRADE COMPONENTS

1. Attendance, Engagement, and Participation

- Worth 20% of final grade, based on in-class attendance and an overall assessment by the professor.

2. Eight Short Commentaries

- Worth 80% of the final grade (8 x 10%).
- You must submit eight commentaries (electronically, via OWL), each of which may be up to one page in length (single-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, standard one-inch margins), demonstrating (a) that you understand and can clearly explain the main point of the complete set of readings for one week, and (b) that you can respond with an academically appropriate, thoughtful commentary about some aspect or point raised in one or more of those readings.
- NOTE: Details on expectations will be announced in class.
- IMPORTANT: Each commentary must be submitted prior the beginning of the class in which the readings addressed are scheduled to be discussed.
- For example, if you are writing a commentary on the readings for 28 September, you must explain the main point of both readings assigned for that week (both the one by Elizabeth Frazer and the one by Peter Singer), and you must submit your commentary prior to 6:30pm (Eastern time) on Wednesday 28 September.
- Late submissions (received after the beginning of the class in which the readings are discussed) can still be graded, but (1) they will have to be graded by a much more demanding standard (because lecture notes and class discussion are available), and (2) all eight commentaries have to be submitted by the final class, or else grading them in time for final submission of grades will not be feasible.
- The first two submissions must be completed by 12 October, in order ensure that you receive your first grades in time to drop the course without academic penalty.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Instructions on how to access the course readings can be found on the 'Overview' tab in the course OWL site. If you have any difficulty accessing an assigned reading, contact the Instructor at sdarcy@huron.uwo.ca

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS

14 September: Introduction to the Course

Reading: Course Outline

21 September: A Typology of Protest Styles

Readings: D'Arcy, "Militancy as a Civic Virtue"; D'Arcy, "The Militant's Vocation"

28 September: Consequentialism and Pluralism ('Diversity of Tactics')

Readings: Peter Singer, "Civil Disobedience, Violence, and Terrorism"; Elizabeth Frazer, "The Diversity of Tactics"

5 October: Conflict, Gender, and Civic Virtue in the Land Defence at Kanehsatà:ke

Readings: Ellen Gabriel, "Those Who Carry the Burden of Peace"; Interview with Gord Hill

12 October: Classical Civil Disobedience

Readings: King, *Letter from Birmingham Jail*; Erica Chenoweth, "How the world is proving Martin Luther King right about nonviolence"

19 October: Policing Protest, Right and Left

Readings: Joseph P. Williams, "The U.S. Capitol Riots and the Double Standard of Protest Policing"; Audra Dipté, "Black and Indigenous protesters are treated differently than the 'convoy' because of Canada's ongoing racism"

26 October: Disruptive Direct Action

Readings: Frances Fox Piven, “Can Power from Below Change the World?”; “Story: Quebec Student Strike”

[No Class on 2 November; Reading Week]

9 November: Sabotage

Readings: Ann Hansen, “Armed Struggle, Guerrilla Warfare, and the Social Movement Influences on Direct Action”; Rote Zora members, “Interview with Two Members of Rote Zora”

16 November: Black Blocs

Readings: Francis Dupuis-Déri, “How Black Blocs have changed protest movements around the world”; John Holloway and Vittorio Sergi, “Of Flowers and Stones: A Dialogue”

23 November: ‘Machismo’ and Militancy

Readings: Sian Sullivan, “Viva Nihilism! On Militancy and Machismo in (Anti-)Globalization Protest”; Marti Kheel, “Direct Action and the Heroic Ideal: An Ecofeminist Critique”

30 November: Rioting

Readings: Avia Pasternak, “Political Rioting: A Moral Assessment”; Jonathan Havercroft, “Why Is There No Just Riot Theory?”

7 December: Armed Struggle

Readings: Timothy Shanahan, “Permission to Kill: Just War Theory and the IRA’s Armed Struggle”



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.

- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and

inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)