

PHILOSOPHY 2760F: Civil Disobedience and Social Protest



Professor: Dr. Steve D'Arcy

Course Time: Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm (Huron New Academic Building H220)

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Office Hours: 12:30pm to 2:00pm, Mondays and Tuesdays (Huron, Valley Wing, V120)

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 ('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 legal 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 reading 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 the final grade

2. Eight Comment Sheets

- Worth 80% of the final grade (8 x 10%).
- You must submit eight commentaries, each of which may be up to one page in length (single-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font), demonstrating (a) that you understand and can clearly explain the main point of **the set of reading 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.
- 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 27 September, you must explain the main point of *both* readings assigned for that week (both the one by Zig Zag and the one by Ellen Gabriel), and you must submit your commentary prior to 6:30pm (Eastern time) on Wednesday 27 September.
- Late submissions can still be graded, **but** (1) they will have to be graded by a **much more demanding standard** (because lectures 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 6 October, in order ensure that you receive your first grades in time to drop the course without academic penalty.
- The commentaries are worth 80% of the final course grade (10% each).

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

8 September: Introduction to the Course

Reading: Course Outline

15 September: A Typology of Protest Styles

Reading: D’Arcy, “Militancy as a Civic Virtue”; D’Arcy, “The Militant’s Vocation”

22 September: Consequentialism, Amoralism, and Pluralism

Readings: Peter Singer, “Civil Disobedience, Violence, and Terrorism”; O’Brien, et al., “Nonviolence versus ‘Diversity of Tactics’ in the Occupy Movement”

29 September: Conflict, Gender, and Civic Virtue in the Land Defence at Kanehsatà:ke

Reading: Zig Zag, “Kaniienkehaka Resistance at Kanehsatake”; Ellen Gabriel, “Those Who Carry the Burden of Peace”

6 October: Classical Civil Disobedience

Reading: King, *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

13 October: Policing, the Far Right, and Black Lives Matter Protests

Reading: Melissa Gira Grant, “Far-Right Militias Are Learning Impunity from the Cops”; Omedi Ochieng, “Defeat the Police: Beyond ‘Defund’ or ‘Community Control’”

20 October: Disruptive Direct Action

Reading: Frances Fox Piven, “Can Power from Below Change the World?”

27 October: Sabotage

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

*** [Reading Week: No class 3 November] ***

10 November: Black Blocs

Reading: John Holloway and Vittorio Sergi, “Of Flowers and Stones: A Dialogue”

17 November: ‘Machismo’ and Militancy

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

24 November: Rioting

Reading: Robert Stephens II, “In Defense of the Ferguson Riots”; D’Arcy, “Rioting”

1 December: Jurisdictional Contestation and Land Reclamation

Reading: “Wet’suwetén Hereditary Chiefs Evict Coastal GasLink from Territory” (read text and watch video); Hayden King, “There are alternatives to what Canada tells us is possible: Hayden King on Indigenous land reclamation”

- *Suggested supplementary readings (not for commentaries):* Case Study: [De-]Occupation of Alcatraz; Mary Kotsonouris, “Revolutionary Justice: The Dáil Éireann Courts”; EZLN [Zapatistas], “First and Second Declarations of the Lacandon Jungle.”

8 December: Armed Struggle

Reading: Black Liberation Army, “A Message to the Black Movement” (1975); D’Arcy, “Armed Struggle”



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

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.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

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>.

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. 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, 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

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

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

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, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, 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) 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 where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. 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: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. 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://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

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

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

Mental Health & Wellness Support 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. 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

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

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