

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

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

**Course Number and Section**

PHILOSOPHY

2760F - 550

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

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

### Course Description:

This is a course about defiant and confrontational social protest, in the context of liberal democratic legal and political systems. The course explores this topic by means of in-depth discussion and careful critical reading of three notable thinkers on this theme, each with a different, sophisticated philosophical perspective on protest and resistance. First, we look at French philosopher, Candice Delmas, who argues in detail for the claim that there is not only a right but a duty to resist social injustice, even to the point of 'uncivil' defiance of the legal and political order. Second, we examine the Nishnaabe (Anishinaabe) thinker, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, who defends practices of Indigenous 'radical resistance' to 'hetero-patriarchal' colonial capitalism, often in the form of determined efforts at land-based intergenerational transmission of socio-cultural competence, but also in the form of 'constellations of co-resistance' that foster 'profoundly anticapitalist' forms of 'generative refusal.' Finally, third, we turn to the work of the Irish philosopher, Christopher Finlay, who applies traditional 'just war theory' to test the claim that armed resistance, as in revolutionary warfare or even some acts that some would call terrorism, may be justifiable on moral grounds.

### Learning Outcomes:

The readings, lectures, and class discussions should prepare students to evaluate and apply perspectives in legal philosophy and democratic theory, in order to assess the merits of various styles and genres of militant protest and civil defiance.

Students should be able to carefully weigh considerations of social justice, democratic legitimacy, personal dignity, and public welfare, and to argue for and against protest tactics in these terms.

Students should be able to articulate verbally and in writing the implications of important values and principles for the assessment of particular cases and types of controversial protest.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Candice Delmas, 'A Duty to Resist'

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, 'As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom Through Radical Resistance'

Christopher Finlay, 'Terrorism and the Right to Resist'

### Methods of Evaluation:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date mm/dd/yy</b>	<b>Weight - %</b>
Short Paper (Delmas)	10/18/2023	20%
Short Paper (Simpson)	11/15/2023	20%
Short Paper (Finlay)	12/01/2023	20%
Final Exam	Dec. TBD	30%
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	10%

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