

**HISTORY 2110A**  
**“Rights Revolution” or “Fragile Freedoms”?**

**Human Rights History in Canada**

**Fall/Winter 2022-23**

**Wednesday, 6:30-8:30**

**In-person**

**Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats**

Office Hours: TBA

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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (ie., on Zoom asynchronously (eg., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the history of human rights in Canada. It explores the creation of rights linked to ethnicity, gender, language, religion, region, class and other characteristics. It asks both why rights have been created and what factors have limited the development of rights.

**Antirequisite(s):**

**History 2187**

**Course Syllabus:**

This course surveys Canadian human rights from Aboriginal views of liberty to contemporary views on ethnic, gender, language, class and other rights. Study of human rights history in Canada reveals forces promoting and challenging liberties. Rights remain controversial, as becomes evident through examining the impacts of Canada's Charter of Rights, which both protects Canadians and complicates as our Courts interpret its meanings. Lectures combined with discussion will hopefully show that Canada's so-called "Rights Revolution" has deep roots; they also reveal the fragile nature of rights often taken for granted. Increased historical awareness should aid in understanding the ongoing evolution of rights in Canada.

**Course Material: [tentative]**

Dominique Clément. *Human Rights In Canada: A History*. Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2016.

## Methods of Evaluation:

Participation	20	%
Online Group Discussion	10	
Reaction to “Pre-1929” Rights Contexts [brief paper]	15	
Commentary on Rights “Element” [brief paper]	20	
Final Exam	35	

Given the brevity of the writing tasks, extensions will need to meet the formal University criteria.

*Students must submit both course papers in order to pass the course.*

For a missed class or online posting, please email or speak with me. No formal documents will be required for these minor cases [worth less than 10 percent]. Longer absences or other academic issues related to illness will require that documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean`s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean`s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

## Course Schedule and Readings: **tentative**

Each class includes about 1.5 hours of lecture format and 20 minutes of group discussion.

### Colonial Contexts

- 1: Introductions // “Worlds” of Rights
- 2: Indigenous & European Notions of Rights to 1500
- 3: Rights in New France & Northernmost British North America to 1760

### “*British Liberties*” – Rights 1760-1860s

- 4: New Rights Thinking; “Race” & Rights”: First Nations and Afri-Canadians
- 5: More Barriers to Rights: Gender, Class, Identity & other Issues

### Preserving *British Liberties*: in a Canadian setting: Confederation to the 1930s

- 6: “Canadian Rights” for “Persons”? : Gender & Those Deemed “Others”
- 7: Nations within: Indigenous & Francophone Rights
- 8: “Politics & Money Matter”: Class Rights, Rights of Expression & more

### Legislative & Practical Changes: Rights from the 1930s to Today

- 9: Legislating & Manipulating Rights – Rights in Depression & War
- 10: Postwar Rights to 1960
- 11: Toward Modern Rights 1960-1982
- 12: Fulfilling the Promise of Rights ? : Rights since the Charter // Review

## Use of Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices will be allowed during the examinations.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

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