COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From religious minorities and Aboriginal peoples to feminists and gays and lesbians, Canadian social groups contend that group-differentiated rights and group-sensitive legal and constitutional interpretations are a necessary condition of equality. While the Canadian state has responded with group-specific provisions in the Charter and Constitution, as well an official policy of multiculturalism, social groups continue to press for legal concessions and the expansion of their rights. This course will examine the relationship between Canadian social groups and the law to assess how social groups employ the legal system in pursuit of equality and how they challenge laws that fail to attend to social group differences. Additionally, this course will examine how the differences that cut across social groups complicate the legal accommodation of ‘group’ differences. By assessing the legal claims of a number of social groups, this course will examine legal responses to questions of social diversity, the limits of law in addressing group-based inequalities and the effects that legal responses to social diversity can have on the most
vulnerable members of social groups (often women).

**Course Materials**
Many of the readings are available electronically. Those that are not available electronically are marked with a *. All legal cases can be accessed using web links found in the weekly folders in the course web site.


Lower court decisions are available electronically through the Canadian Legal Information Institute at: [http://www.canlii.org/en/index.php](http://www.canlii.org/en/index.php)

**Evaluation**
- Participation 30%
- Presentation 15%
- Critical Commentary Paper 20%
- Essay Proposal 5%
- Research Essay 30%

**Participation**
Participation grades are based on participation in class and tutorial discussions and activities. Students are expected to attend class and tutorial having completed all of the required readings (please consult page 10 for more information regarding participation).

**Presentation**
Each week, one or two students will present and critique the central arguments of the week’s readings. Each presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length, and must include a one-page, single-sided handout which includes the main points of the readings and at least 3 discussion questions. As the presentation is expected to be a joint project between the students involved, all students in the group will receive the same grade. The presenters are welcome to provide additional resources, case studies, etc. to help stimulate discussion in class.

**Critical Commentary Papers**
Students are required to write one critical commentary paper. The paper should be 5-6 pages, 12 pt. times new roman. The purpose of the paper is to encourage students to familiarize themselves with academic writing and argumentation. The purpose of the assignment is to summarize AND critique the arguments of the assigned readings. The assignment requires students to accomplish the following:
1. Provide a brief summary (i.e. around 1 page) of the main arguments of the paper.
2. Identify the important questions or issues identified by the author(s).
3. Highlight any assumptions the author(s) makes and the facts they use to support their claims.
4. Discuss whether or not the article is compelling and any gaps in the author(s) argument.
5. Provide your own thoughts on the issues covered and provide one theoretical or empirical question that arises from the article.

The article you will respond to will be posted to the class OWL site in the first few weeks of the course.

***DUE DATE FOR CRITICAL COMMENTARY PAPERS: A hard copy of your Critical Commentary Paper is due at the beginning of class on October 16, 2018.

Essay Proposal
Students are required to submit a research proposal outlining a topic and preliminary thesis statement due November 13, 2018. The essay proposal is meant to assist students in developing and framing their research topics through some preliminary research. Completing a proposal ensures that students are provided with some early feedback on their topic and preliminary work.

Essay
Students are required to write a research paper of approximately 15 pages, 12 pt. times new roman. Due date: December 04, 2018.

Students are expected to write an argumentative essay, which examines some aspect of social diversity and/or gender covered in the class material. Students must put forth a clear argument, backed by coherent reasoning and high-quality research. Students should make mention of important counter-arguments to their own claims, though this need not be a major aspect of your analysis.

The essays should rely on independent research outside of the assigned course material. Greater weight should be given to resources such as books, academic/research journals and government documents. Good quality newspapers and Internet resources will also be acceptable if you have made use of a few quality books and academic/research journals. It is highly recommended that you do not cite your textbook. Students are encouraged to make use of the Western and Brescia Libraries’ resources. Besides the course instructor, librarians could be consulted for help.

The late penalty is 10% per week. Please note that a hard copy of the assignment must be submitted at the beginning of class on December 04, 2018.
***Important Notes Regarding the Essay:

Citations
You must identify all quotations, references, and other people's ideas in the notes/footnotes. If you do not use any footnotes/endnotes, a penalty of -25% will be imposed.

Bibliography or Works Cited
You must attach a Bibliography or Works Cited. Another -10% penalty will be imposed if you do not do so. You must have a minimum of four academic sources (consult a librarian for clarification on what counts as an academic source (e.g. newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, do not count). Failure to include at least four academic sources will result in a grade of “F”. The highest grades in this course typically go to students that consult a large number of high-quality source materials. The use of more than eight sources is highly recommended.

Spelling and Typing Errors
If there are excessive spelling errors or typos in the essay (i.e. more than 15), a penalty of (-) 10% will be applied.

Style Guide
Students are required to use Chicago Style formatting for all assignments, and marks will be deducted for improper formatting. Please consult a writer’s handbook when composing your essays in order to see how to format things like bibliography and footnotes. One such excellent handbook is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). A useful link may be found at the following url: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

Turnitin
All assignments are 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](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Assignments can be submitted to turnitin.com through OWL. Note that assignments have not been submitted “on time” unless they have been submitted to turnitin.com prior to being submitted in hard copy form at seminar.

Extensions
Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances, students may seek academic accommodation, as detailed below. If you fail to
hand in an assignment but are pursuing academic accommodation, please advise your Professor of this fact.

**Academic Accommodation**
If a situation should arise where a student requires accommodation because of a medical or personal issue, the student should visit his or her faculty’s Academic Counselling office so that an academic counsellor can make a recommendation for academic accommodation to the student’s Professor(s).

This procedure means that you do not provide your instructor with any details of your situation. It is your responsibility to speak with a counsellor as soon as possible after an issue arises. Academic accommodation ONLY will be provided if you speak with an Academic Counsellor and provide them with documentation of your issue, and if the issue is brought to their attention in a timely fashion.

Academic Counselling for the Faculty of Social Sciences is located at SSC 2105
Telephone: 519 661-2011
Recorded information: 519 661-2052
Fax: 519 661-3384
Email: ssaco@uwo.ca

**Medical Illness**
Please be aware that the policies regarding medical documentation have changed. The following is an excerpt from the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

**Undergraduate Students**
**Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics**
A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf)

Hard copies are available from Academic Counselling in the Faculties.

**Documentation from Student Health Services**
Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a “release of information.” This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student’s home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student’s home Faculty Academic Counselling service.

**Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments**
Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at
the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

**Email**

The Professor will respond to email and will do his best to reply within 48 hours. Emails sent on the weekend will be answered on Monday. Do note that university policy precludes Professors from responding to email messages that were not sent from a UWO email account.

**Etiquette**

Discussion and debate is an important component in an online course. However, at times, the course deals with sensitive and controversial topics. Therefore, our interactions in each forum must be guided by an ethic of respect.

**Electronics**

Electronics are increasingly an important component in learning. Therefore, laptop use is permitted as long as it does not disrupt the learning experience of other students. Disruptive behavior will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may result in the suspension of laptop privileges.
Class Schedule

September 11
Introduction to the Course

September 18
Social Group Differences: Assimilation or Accommodation and the Difference Dilemma


September 25
Anti-essentialism and Intersectionality


October 2
Women: The Utility of Rights


October 09
Fall Reading Week

October 16
**CRITICAL COMMENTARY PAPER DUE**

Socioeconomic Class


**abbreviated version available in course web site.**
October 23
Gays and Lesbians: Rights Claiming


October 30
Transgendered and Transsexual Individuals


November 6
Judicial Impartiality and Contextualized Judging


**link available in course web site.


**November 13**  **ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE**  
Ethnocultural Groups (Cultural Autonomy v. Gender Equality)


*The Queen v. G.J.* [2005] NTCCA 20 (Court of Criminal Appeal of the Northern Territory). *(paras. 2-5 and 9-38 only).*  
**link available in course web site (Australian case).**

**November 20**  
Cultural Defences at Law


**link available in course web site.**

**November 27**

**Indigenous Peoples and Gender**


**December 4** **RESEARCH ESSAY DUE**
PARTICIPATION

Participation may take many forms. Throughout this course, you will be asked to participate in a number of different ways, including participation in discussions, and debates. Critical to all of this, of course, is attendance—you can’t participate if you’re not here!!

Participation Grading Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Always</td>
<td>Excellent: leads debate; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on theme of reading; takes care not to dominate; asks questions</td>
<td>Clearly has done and prepared questions on virtually all readings; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Almost always</td>
<td>Very Good: thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor</td>
<td>Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td>Good: has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions</td>
<td>Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to analyze them or to relate them to the course material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>Somewhat Poor: remarks in class marred by misunderstandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic</td>
<td>Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Poor: rarely speaks; parrots text or comments of others</td>
<td>Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ESSAYS

### Grading Grid

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argument</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organization of the Essay</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of evidence</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication Skills</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use of quotations and footnotes</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility
"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."

Essay course requirements
With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

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."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/))
"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work
Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments
In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

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 Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA’S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR’S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations
EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) 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.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.
Students registered in Social Science should refer to http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty’s academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "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 )."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html
In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. **In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. **In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History
August 13, 1991
**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**
The Registrar’s office can be accessed for Student Support Services at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca)

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: [http://westernusc.ca/services/](http://westernusc.ca/services/)

Student Development Services can be reached at: [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.