

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Cultures, Values, and Human Rights

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

2812F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Cecilia Li

Instructor Email(s): zli289@uwo.ca

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 course is an introduction to the philosophy of human rights, especially issues related to cultural diversity and moral relativism. We will begin our course with a survey of the historical development of the idea of human rights, from authors such as John Locke, Immanuel Kant, and Aristotle. We will then focus on some contemporary issues in the debates of human rights. For instance, are there a set of universal human rights or does the idea involve culture imperialism? Does the idea of minority group rights qualify as a human rights issue? Do we have a human right to make a livable wage, to security and healthcare? How do issues like abortion and euthanasia promote or undermine human rights? Do we have a right to meaningful social relationships? And finally, we will conclude the course by thinking about the status of animal rights.

Learning Outcomes:

- Read and understand difficult and challenging texts
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of arguments
- Appreciate unfamiliar ideas and points of view
- Develop and defend your own positions and ideas
- Express yourself clearly in discussion
- Write clearly, concisely, and effectively in support of your claims

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings will be made available on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	20%
Creative Assignment	12/08/2023	10%
Essay #1	10/16/2023	15% - 25% *

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay #2	11/27/2023	15% - 25% *
Final Exam	TBD Dec.	30%

** The two essays combined will be worth 40%. Your better one will be weighted at 25% and the other at 15%.*

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