

**POLI 4505**  
**Human Rights: Legal Issues**  
Department of Political Science  
Dalhousie University  
Fall 2020

**Instructor:**

Dr. Larissa Atkison

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Office hours: Fri 3:00-4:30 by Microsoft Teams, or by appointment



Halifax Black Lives Matter Protest, June 1, 2020

**Course Overview:**

This online course focuses on the legal issues and ongoing debates surrounding the development and enforcement of human rights law, especially within the Canadian context. This will function as an online asynchronous seminar. The first section of the course will introduce notions of human rights operative in international law, including those that inform international human rights treaties and conventions, as well as courts. The second section will situate human rights institutions within the Canadian legal framework. The third and longest section of the course will examine human rights law and legal controversies within the Canadian context. Specifically, we will focus our analysis on the establishment and protection of

rights for women, gendered minorities, and BIPOC communities as well as the challenges these communities continue to face in the Canadian context.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**

By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the international bodies and documents that inform and influence human rights law
- Address how international human rights law has been applied in domestic settings
- Identify past and present domestic human rights abuses and the legislation that has emerged (or failed to emerge) in response to such abuses
- Apply an intersectional lens to research, critical thinking, and written analysis
- Conduct scholarly research and present evidence in a coherent manner.

**Assignments and Class Participation Overview:**

Discussion Board	40%
Blog Reflection (x 2)	20%
Quizzes x 2	10%
Paper Proposal	10%
Research Paper	20%

N.B. If you are a Dal student, and would like to review the FULL syllabus for this course, please contact Dr. Larissa Atkison directly ([larissa.atkison@dal.ca](mailto:larissa.atkison@dal.ca)).