

Subject to change!

UWO - Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research WS1024F - Introduction to Equity, Diversity and Human Rights

This introductory course surveys theory and practice in the fields of equity, diversity, and human rights as they are taken up in institutional domains such as social work, education, and law and in schools of thought such as critical race studies, feminism and gender studies, sexuality studies, and disability studies. Specifically, the course addresses some of the questions and debates within equity, diversity, and human rights discourses and practices: How are equity, diversity and human rights subject to political, economic, and state interests? Are institutionalized approaches to equity and diversity truly useful? What does it mean to have “human rights?” And how, and by whom, are rights contested so they we must struggle to gain and protect them? In addition to learning through our course readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments, we will pay attention to media stories, Human Rights organizations, as well as to protests by equity seeking groups to see how they take up the issues and topics addressed in this course.

Course objectives:

- Address how equity, diversity, and human rights are inter-related
- Exposure to theories, practices, and debates in these areas
- Awareness of key human rights organizations and their mandates
- Familiarity with equity, diversity, and human rights policies
- Awareness of activism in relation to these specific social justice issues
- Knowledge of the progress made, and the challenges presented in these areas

Learning Outcomes:

- Good knowledge about the meanings of “equity,” “diversity,” and “human rights”
- Good understanding of the debates and different schools of thought in equity, diversity and human rights
- Good knowledge of how these issues are taken up in local and global contexts
- Familiarity with how feminist scholarship, in particular, address these issues
- Read theory closely and critically
- Improve research and writing skills through appropriate assignments and constructive feedback

Assignments:

- Participation – 10%
- Short reading response x 2 papers (15% each) = 30%
- Proposal for research paper – 10%
- Research paper – 20%
- Final exam – 30%

Readings (TBA)