

# McMaster University Online Labour Studies Certificate Program

## Fall 2024 course catalogue

Click [HERE](#) to learn more  
about our program

- ✓ Join labour activists from around the country, for exciting discussions in a supportive environment that builds your confidence, knowledge and network.
- ✓ Participate from the comfort of home
- ✓ All courses are offered online, in the evening
- ✓ Easy to enroll and pay online
- ✓ Accessible and Affordable
- ✓ Learn from experts, labour lawyers, professors, union leaders, activists and community advocates.

**Space is limited! First  
class begins  
September 3rd. Sign  
up today!**

**BRIGHTER  
WORLD**

McMaster  
University 

# Fall 2024 Courses

## 1. LABRST193|Labour Studies Theory (Part 1)

One of our foundational courses (you must take part 1 or 2 to obtain the certificate). Our theory courses develop critical thinking skills to be a better 'big picture' activist by connecting the dots between everyday problems workers face on the job and the larger unseen forces that cause them. Who are the 1%? What is capitalism? How do employers squeeze workers on the job? Why are corporate profits so high while workers' living standards are decreasing? Can workers and unions fight this?

**Tuesdays September 3, 10, 17, 24. 6:30 – 9:30 pm EST**

## 2. LABRST 205|What are worker co-operatives?

Workers have a long history and tradition of worker owned and run business', apartment complexes, stores, credit unions and other enterprises. These co-ops are run democratically by the people who work in them, and the profits go to workers rather than a private employer. Interest in co-operative ownership as an alternative has grown recently. Can co-ops improve workers' lives? How do they work, and what are some examples today? What challenges do they face?

**Tuesdays October 1, 8, 15, 22. 6:30 – 9:30 pm EST**

## 3. LABRST 206|Challenges facing the labour movement

This course outlines the gradual attacks on public sector unions around the country, especially in Alberta, where governments have taken aim at the bargaining rights of the province's public sector. We then look at how a union local in Alberta developed an exciting 'take back the shop floor' training seminar to mobilize union members in the workplace to build their power and confidence to fight back. Can similar mobilization strategies be adopted around the country by other unions?

**Tuesdays October 29, Nov 5, 12, 19. 6:30 – 9:30 pm EST**

#### 4. LABRST 207 | Issues in labour law for workers

The theme of this course: 'The Occupational Health and Safety System: Profits over Safety?' The OHS system has made workplaces safer and healthier. However, does it put employer profits or efficiency over workers health and safety? Is it designed to steer workers away from H and S activism and into following employer procedures? Does it blame workers for poor health and safety? Were employer profits put ahead of worker H & S during covid? How can unions put workers' experiences and voices at the centre of safe and healthy workplaces? .

**Tuesdays November 26, Dec 3, 10, 17. 6:30 – 9:30 pm EST**

- Click [HERE](#) to register for Fall 2024 courses
- Enroll at your own pace: take as many or as few courses you wish each semester with no deadline to graduate
- Each session includes small breakout groups and exciting discussions
- Each course is \$170 and is one night a week, for 4 weeks\*
  - Payment is due at the end of each course
  - Click [HERE](#) for payment information
- Completion of 12 courses, including one labour history course (either Part 1 or 2) and one labour studies theory course (either Part 1 or 2); is required to obtain the certificate.
- Registration closes **3 business days** before the first session OR when capacity is reached.
- If you have any questions please send an email to [lbstcert@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lbstcert@mcmaster.ca)

\* Please note that our courses fees are increasing to \$185 in January 2025

# Winter 2025 Courses

\*Registration for the following courses will open on **November 1st**. Please check our website regularly for updates in upcoming semesters.

## 1. LABRST 204 | Labour History (part 1)

Learn and discuss the exciting and heroic history of how Canadian workers fought for better workplaces and a better society. How did employers and governments use violence against workers who tried to build unions? How were company spies, and private security agencies used against workers who wanted unions? What gains did the labour movement win for working people? How can we use knowledge about labour's past to improve workplaces and society today?

**Tuesdays January 7, 14, 21, 28 . 6:30 pm EST**

## 2. LABRST204|Challenges facing the Labour Movement (part 2)

Note: You do not have to take part 1 to enroll in this course. Challenges part 2 will delve into issues affecting organized labour movement, and course participants will debate what the best way forward is. A more specific course description will come out during the fall.

**Tuesdays February 11, 18, 25, March 4. 6:30 PM EST**

## 3. LABRST194|Labour Law for Workers (Part 4)

Note: you do not have to take parts 1 or 2 to enroll. This course will look at increasingly complicated workplace problems in the unionized environment such as illness, addiction and absenteeism in the workplace; Discipline and discharge in union and non-union workplaces, employers increasing use of technology for surveillance and making jobs redundant, and other contemporary workplace issues.

**Tuesdays March 18, 25, April 1, 8. 6:30 PM EST**

Winter Term registration  
will open on **November  
First, 2024.**