AN INTRODUCTION TO LABOUR IN CANADA

WINTER 2019

INSTRUCTOR: David Goutor
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LECTURE: Thursdays 7-9, KTH B135
OFFICE: KTH 701A
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 5-6

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Course Description
This course will survey the formation and evolution of the Canadian working class and the labour movement. It will examine different types of labour organizations and their responses to the emergence and development of industrial capitalism. It will also draw on recent research to explore themes such as the impact of technological change on workplaces, the role of gender and ethnicity on the job and in the community and working-class family life. By the end of the course, students should have a command of both the key concepts and historical context required to study contemporary labour issues.

In addition to attending the lectures, students will come to weekly tutorials and be prepared to discuss the readings. Tutorial participation is an essential part of the course. In order to develop students’ analytical and writing skills, there will be two short essays based on the readings. The final exam will cover all course material.

Course Learning Objectives
- This course will introduce students to core questions about labour studies. And since it takes an interdisciplinary approach, it will give them a grounding not only in the field of labour studies but in many others, including sociology, economics, globalization and political science.
- The course will also help students to understand the limits of knowledge, especially because there is no consensus (theoretical or political) on the forces the shape the labour movement or the experience of workers.
- The course will also give students greater knowledge of methodologies. The first assignment has them critically evaluate a piece of scholarship on labour issues, while the second will have them find, evaluate, and use material relevant to one of the main questions in labour studies. Both the assignments and the weekly tutorial discussions will also allow students to further develop their communication skills.

Required Materials and Texts
- Custom Courseware, Labour Studies 1A03
- Other Readings online or posted on Avenue to Learn

Course Evaluation Breakdown
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Exam period</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings
NOTE: the tutorials are in a separate plan that follows the lecture & reading schedule.

Unit 1 – Introduction
Lecture Date – January 10

Unit 2 – The Era of Producerism
Lecture Date – January 17
Lecture Topics:
• Work in Pre-Industrial Times
• Industrialization and Resistance
• Survival Strategies for Working-Class Families
Readings:
Coursepack: Bettina Bradbury, “Gender at Work at Home: Family Decisions, the Labour Market, and Girls’ Contributions to the Family Economy.”

Unit 3 – The Consolidation of Industry
Lecture Date – January 24
Lecture Topics:
  o Workplace Transformations
  o AFL and the Knights of Labor
  o Immigrant Labour
Readings:
Coursepack: 1. Bryan Palmer, excerpts from Working Class Experience, 2nd Ed
  2. Editorials for Palladium of Labor by Phillips Thompson (as “Enjolras).

Unit 4 - Labour in the Age of Catastrophe 1914-1945
Lecture Date – January 31
Lecture Topics:
  o Upheaval, Resistance and Repression
  o Surviving Hard Times
  o Rise of Industrial Unions
Readings:
Coursepack: 1. Katrina Srigley, “In Case You Hadn’t Noticed!”: Race, Ethnicity, and Women’s Wage-Earning in a Depression-Era City.”
  2. McCartney and Lester, "Battle of Ballantyne Pier: An Injury to One is an Injury to All!!" (graphic story)
Unit 5 - The “Golden Age” for Labour? 1945-1973
Lecture Date – February 7
Lecture Topics:
  o Prosperity & Limits
  o Public Sector Unionism
Readings:
Coursepack:
  1. Kristofferson and Orpana, "Excerpt from Part II: The Battle of Stelco"
     (graphic story)
  2. “Excerpts from ‘Women and OPSEU’” (pamphlet)
  3. “Excerpts from “A Fist Full of Dollars” (pamphlet)

Mid-Term Test – February 14

First Term Recess – February 21
No Lectures

Unit 6 – Labour in the Neo-Liberal Age
Lecture Date – February 28
Lecture Topics:
  o Rise and Rise of Neo-Liberalism
  o Globalization – a Virtual Tour
Readings:
Jefferson Cowie and Lauren Boehm, “Dead Man’s Town: ‘Born in the USA,’
Social History and Working-Class Identity.” (PDF on Avenue to Learn)

Unit 7 – The Work and the Self
Lecture Dates – March 7
Lecture Topics:
  o Labour & Emotion
  o The Market Frontier
Readings:
Coursepack: 1. “Introduction to: The Managed Heart Commercialization of
Human Feeling” by Hochschild, A.R.
                 2. "Emotional Life on the Market Frontier" by Hochschild, A.R.

Unit 8 – Vulnerability at Work
Lecture Date – March 14
Lecture Topics:
  o Precarious Labour
  o Migrant Worker Programs
McMaster University, School of Labour Studies, LABRST 1A03E

Readings:

Coursepack:
- "Precarious Employment and Occupational Health and Safety in Ontario" by Lewchuk et. al
- Jenna L. Hennebry and Kerry Preibisch, A Model for Managed Migration? Re-Examining Best Practices in Canada’s Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program
  https://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/AModelforManagedMigration.pdf

Unit 9 – Working Towards Equity – or Not?
Lecture Dates – March 21
Lecture Topics:
  o Enduring Cleavages: Race, Class and Gender
  o Equity Law & Accommodation
Readings:
  Coursepack: "The Gap for Racialized Workers" by Block, S. & Galabuzi, G.
  Required & Online: "An Examination of the Duty to Accommodate in the Canadian Human Rights Context" by Barnett, L. et al.
  https://lop.parl.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/2012-01-e.pdf

Unit 10 – Getting Paid – Past and Present
Lecture Dates – March 28
Lecture Topics:
  o The Rules Behind Your Paycheck
  o Wage Theft
Readings:
  2. Ruth Milkman et.al. “Wage Theft and Workplace Violations in Los Angeles” https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5jt7n9gx

Unit 11 – Tech & Work + Exam Prep
Lecture Dates – April 4
Lecture Topics:
  o This Time It’s Different?
Readings:
  Required & Online: Derek Thompson, “A World Without Work”
Weekly Tutorial Plan

1 – January 17: Introduction
2 – January 24: Gender at Work
3 – January 31: Approaches to Organizing
4 – February 7: Gender & Surviving the Depression
5 – February 14 - Term Test – No Tutorials
6 – February 21: Reading Week, No tutorials
7 – February 28: The Golden Age?
8 – March 7: Research and Argumentation
9 – March 14: Working-Class Culture in Modern Times
10 – March 21: Labour, Emotion & the Market Frontier
11 – March 28: Precarious Labour
12 – April 4 - Wrap Up and Exam Preparation

Course Policies
Submission of Assignments
In this class, the professor and Teaching Assistants only mark paper copies of assignments. You can submit your paper electronically to stop the clock regarding lateness, but you must also submit a paper copy for the grading. It is your responsibility to make sure we get a paper copy at the deadline, or make arrangements to get us a paper copy very shortly after the deadline. If you do not submit a paper copy of the essay in a timely fashion, late penalties will be applied.

Grades
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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Late Assignments

- **Late Penalties:**
  - **First 3 days:** 1% per working day. (This means 1% out of 100 on that assignment, not 1% from the final course grade.)
  - **After first 3 days:** per working day. (This means 2% out of 100 on that assignment, not 2% from the final course grade.)

- **Grade Adjustments:** Redistributions of grade values (for example, moving the weight for an assignment to the final exam) are extremely rare and given only in truly extraordinary circumstances.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Academic Dishonesty:

[http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.html](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.html)

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf)
The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course, we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy for this purpose.

Department/University Policies:
Labour Studies staff does not date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of student papers. All papers should be submitted/returned in-class, in tutorials or during Professor/TA office hours. Instructors who utilize Avenue to Learn will provide instructions on that preference.

Absence Reporting:
http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/ On-line self-reporting tool – illness lasting less than 3 days. Can only be used once per term. Instructors are not allowed to accept medical notes! These must be submitted to your Faculty office. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please also communicate with the course instructor.

Code of Conduct:
http://studentaffairs.mcmaster.ca
“McMaster University is a community dedicated to furthering learning, intellectual inquiry, the dissemination of knowledge and personal and professional development. Membership in this community implies acceptance of the principle of mutual respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study work and live within it.”

Computer Use:
Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

Course Modifications:
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their
McMaster email and Avenue to Learn (if used by instructor) regularly during the term to note any changes.

**Email Communication Policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences:**
All e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. **It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account.** If an instructor/TA receives a communication from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion. **Please always include student name, ID, course # and TA name in messages.**

**Evaluations (Online):**
http://evals.mcmaster.ca, and log in via MACID. These help faculty and the School of Labour Studies to meet our goal of continually improving teaching effectiveness. All students in the course are invited and encouraged to complete the evaluation.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
http://sas.mcmaster.ca/
Location: MUSC – B107
Contact: 905-525-9140 x 28652
**NOTE: Disclosure of disability-related information is personal and confidential.**
Student Accessibility Services offers various supports for students with disabilities. We work with full time and part time students. SAS provides or assists students with their academic and disability-related needs, including: Learning Strategies, Assistive Technologies, Test & Exam Administration, Note-Taking Programs, and Classroom Accommodations. *Please inform the instructor if there are disability needs that are not being met.*

**McMaster University Policy on Academic Accommodation**
Please find the McMaster University policy on academic accommodation of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy at the following link:

**Student Success Centre:**
Email Address: http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/
Location: GH-110
Contact: 905-525-9140 x 24254
Some services include: student orientation, academic skills, volunteerism, educational planning, employment and career transition. Writing Support:
http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html

**Student Wellness Centre:**
Email Address: http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/
Location: MUSC-B10
Contact: 905-525-9140 x 27700

Provides services in: Personal and Psychological Counselling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services