1. 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.

2. Required Reading

➢ Custom Courseware, Labour Studies 1A03

3. Evaluation Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Essay</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Essay</td>
<td>March 12</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>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important Notes About Assignments and Grades:

- **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.
• **MSAF Forms:** if you fill out one of these, the system simply notifies us that you have used the form. SO you need to contact BOTH the TA and the instructor about what accommodations you want to request.

### 4. Learning Objectives

This course will enhance the student’s depth and breadth of knowledge in a number of ways. It will introduce them to core questions about labour studies. And since this course 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.

### 5. Schedule of Lectures, Tutorials & Readings

1 – **Introduction**

   **Lectures – January 8**
   - Basic Concepts and Context

2 – **The Era of Producerism to 1880**

   **Lectures: January 15**
   - Work in Pre-Industrial Times
   - Industrialization & Resistance
   - Survival Strategies for Working-Class Families

   **Reading:**
   - *Coursepack:* Bettina Bradbury, “Gender at Work at Home: Family Decisions, the Labour Market, and Girls’ Contributions to the Family Economy.”

3 – **The Consolidation of the Industrial Economy – 1880-1914**

   **Lectures – January 22**
   - Workplace Transformations
   - AFL and the Knights of Labor
   - Immigrant Labour

   **Reading:**
   - *Coursepack:* Bryan Palmer, excerpts from *Working Class Experience*, 2nd Ed
   - Editorial for *Palladium of Labor* by Phillips Thompson (as “Enjolras”)
   - David Goutor, “Constructing the Great Menace”
4 – Labour in the Age of Catastrophe 1914-1945
Lectures – January 29 & February 5 (first half)
- Upheaval, Resistance and Repression
- Surviving Hard Times
- Rise of Industrial Unions
Reading:
Coursepack: Katrina Srigley, “In Case You Hadn’t Noticed!”: Race, Ethnicity, and Women’s Wage-Earning in a Depression-Era City.”
- McCartney and Lester, "Battle of Ballantyne Pier: An Injury to One is an Injury to All!"

5 – The “Golden Age” for Labour? 1945-1973
Lectures – February 5 (second half) & February 12
- Prosperity and Limits
- Public Sector Unionism
Reading:
Coursepack: Kristofferson and Orpana, "Excerpt from Part II: The Battle of Stelco"
- Desmond Morton, “Public Interest, Public Service,”
- “Excerpts from ‘Women and OPSEU’”
- “Excerpts from “A Fist Full of Dollars””

6 - Second Term Recess – February 19 – No Lectures or Tutorials

7 – Counterattack: the Neo-Liberal Age
Lectures – February 26
- Neo-Liberalism
- Globalization – a Visual Tour
Reading:
Coursepack: "Highway to Hell," by Nikiforuk, A.
- Jefferson Cowie and Lauren Boehm, “Dead Man’s Town: ‘Born in the USA,’ Social History and Working Class Identity.” (PDF on Avenue to Learn)

8 – Labour in the Age of Crisis
Lectures – March 5
- Inequality & Unrest
- Global Work in the 21st Century – a Visual Tour
Reading:
Coursepack: "Planet of Slums" by Davis, M.
http://www.plaas.org.za/sites/default/files/Planet%20of%20Slum%20by%20Mike%20Davis.pdf

9 – Work/Life Imbalance
Lectures – March 12
- Labour & Emotion
- The Market Frontier
Reading:
Coursepack: “Introduction to The Managed Heart Commercialization of Human Feeling” by Hochschild, A.R.
   - "Emotional Life on the Market Frontier” by Hochschild, A.R.

10 – Precarious Labour
Lectures – March 19
Reading:
   - "Precarious Employment and Occupational Health and Safety in Ontario" by Lewchuk et. al

11 – Working Towards Equity – Or Not
Lectures – March 26
   o Enduring Cleavages: Race, Class and Gender
   o Equity Law & Accommodation
Reading:
Coursepack: "The Gap for Racialized Workers" by Block, S. & Galabuzi, G.
   - "An Examination of the Duty to Accommodate in the Canadian Human Rights Context" by Barnett, L. et al.

12 – Technology and the Future of Work
Lectures – April 2
   o Robots, AI and Jobs
   o Post-Workist Utopia or a Cyberproletariat?
Reading:
Derek Thompson, “A World Without Work”
Peter Frase, “Four Futures After Capitalism”
https://jacobinmag.com/2011/12/four-futures/

13 - Wrapping Up
Lecture – April 9

5.a Outline of Tutorial Topics
1 – January 22: Introduction, Writing Workshop
2 – January 29: Making Ends Meet for Working-Class Families
3 – February 5: Workplace Change Exercise
4 – February 12: Different Kinds of Organizing
5 – February 19: Reading Week, No tutorials
6 – February 26: Research and Argumentation
7 – March 5: Assessing the Golden Age
8 – March 12: Race, Gender, and Working-Class Culture
9 – March 19: Labour, Emotion & the Market Frontier
10 – March 26: Precarious Labour
11 – April 2 - Wrap Up and Exam Preparation

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.

DEPARTMENTAL/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/](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](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 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.

E-Mail 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](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/](http://sas.mcmaster.ca/)  
**MUSC-B107  905-525-9140 x28652**

**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 of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy  

Student Success Centre: [http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/](http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/)  
**GH-110  905-525-9140 x24254**

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](http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html)

Student Wellness Centre: [http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/](http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/)  
**MUSC-B101  905-525-9140 x27700**

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