

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 4800A – Environmental and Social Justice

TERM: FALL 2020

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 2908 and Fourth-Year Honours Standing

CLASS: Day & Time: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule.
Room: All Courses in the Fall 2020 term are offered online.

Lectures/seminars in this course will be delivered using a combination of pre-recorded videos and “live” online sessions using the Zoom conferencing platform during our regularly scheduled class time.

Synchronous sessions will be recorded and alternative assessments made available for students who cannot attend (with prior approval from the Professor).

PROFESSOR: Professor Danika Littlechild

CONTACT: Office: Room D487 Loeb Building
Office Hrs: By appointment, in person or Zoom
Telephone: 613-520-2600 x2678
Email: Danika.Littlechild@carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

The potential of environmental law to protect the environment and people while promoting opportunities for informed participation in environmental decision making by groups traditionally excluded from these processes; contemporary issues of social justice raised by legal regulation of the environment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environment and social justice have become central issues of global concern. We are constantly reminded of the urgency of environmental action: extreme wildfires, flooding, toxic contamination, climate change and biodiversity loss, to name only a few. Through the course of the past few years alone, we have seen more focus on the idea that environmental problems affect people and communities differentially. Marginalized people often bear the brunt of environmental costs, while contributing little to their creation. This course sets out to offer an overview of environmental and social justice as a legal discourse, addressing how notions of justice, rights and well-being of human and non-human communities can deepen our understanding and environmental and social justice. Emerging perspectives around decolonialism, environmental racism, sustainability and intersectionality will be engaged to

understand the issues, actors and laws related to environment and social justice.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Coolsaet, Brendan (ed.) Environmental Justice: Key Issues in Environment and Sustainability (2020) – Available at Octopus Books and online at Ares

Waldron, Ingrid R.G. There's Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous & Black Communities (2018) – Available at Octopus Books and online at Ares

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Department and the Dean.

Student engagement is important for the success of the course. Given the seminar setting of the course, our collaborative learning will be contingent on everyone's active involvement and contributions. Your participation will not be assessed on how much you speak / post, but on the quality of your engagement, the thoughtfulness of your response, respectful listening and commitment to creating a safe learning environment in which everyone feels valued and respected.

In addition to participation in regular class hours for synchronous sessions via Zoom or similar platform, the format of the course will be a mix of asynchronous pre-recorded lectures, in class exercises (reflections and worksheets) and discussion posted to the discussion board of CULearn. Comments may consider assigned readings, reflect on environmental and social justice issues that have been raised in other classes or in the media, or otherwise demonstrate interest and engagement with environmental and social justice. When guest lecturers have been invited to share their knowledge, students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to the discussion where synchronous or post to the discussion board where pre-recorded.

Course Assignments:

Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (5-6 pages) DUE: Wednesday November 4, 2020	20% of Final Mark
Research Paper (15-20 pages) DUE: Wednesday December 9, 2020	50% of Final Mark
Class Participation (1) Synchronous Class Participation (2) In Class Exercises / Worksheets (3) Discussion Board Participation related	30% of Final Mark

to Asynchronous Pre-Recorded and Guest Lectures	
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LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

All assignments and exercises for this class are to be submitted electronically via email or CULearn. Unless otherwise specified all deadlines will be at 16:00 pm of the date that the assignment is due. There will be a late penalty of 5% for each day late.

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>.

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

SCHEDULE

This course outline provides a brief overview of the topics we will cover in the course, and how key chapters of the required texts fit with this outline. Reference material for the week does not constitute required reading, but may be helpful and interesting as points of discussion. Details on assigned course readings will be posted on CULearn over the course of the term. Guest Lectures will be announced on CULearn over the course of the term.

September 9, 2020	Introduction
September 16, 2020	Defining and Conceptualizing Environmental and Social Justice
	Chapter 3, 4 & 5 of Coolsaet; Chapter 2 of Waldron
September 23, 2020	Toxics and Contamination
	Chapter 10 of Coolsaet; Chapter 3 & 4 of Waldron; Reference Material for the Week: Statement by UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics Canada Country Visit
September 30, 2020	Climate Change
	Chapter 12 & 13 of Coolsaet; Reference Material for the Week: Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change 2nd Annual Report

October 7, 2020

Biodiversity

Chapter 11 of Coolsaet;
Reference Material for the Week: [We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the Creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation](#)

October 14, 2020

Environmental Racism

Chapter 17 of Coolsaet, Chapter 5 & 6 of Waldron Pellow, D.N. (2016) Toward a critical environmental justice studies: Black Lives Matter as an environmental justice challenge, *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 13(2), 221-236
Ilyniak, N., (2014) Mercury Poisoning in Grassy Narrows: Environmental Injustice, Colonialism, and Capitalist Expansion in Canada. *McGill Sociological Review* 4, 43-66.

October 21, 2020

Gender

Chapter 18 of Coolsaet;
Scott, Dayna Nadine et al (2015) The Production of

Pollution and

Consumption of Chemicals in Canada, In: Our Chemical Selves: Gender, Toxics and Environmental Health, 3-30
Bennholdt-Thomsen, V. (2014). A Subsistence Perspective for the Transition to a New Civilization: An Ecofeminist Contribution to Degrowth. *Canadian Woman Studies*, 31(1/2), 20.

October 26 – 30, 2020

Fall Break, No Classes

November 4, 2020

Indigenous Peoples and Decolonization

Chapter 20 of Coolsaet;
Borrows, John (2018) Earth Bound: Indigenous Resurgence and Environmental Reconciliation, In: Asch et al (eds) Resurgence and Reconciliation: Indigenous Settler Relations and Earth Teachings,

University of Toronto Press, 49-82
 McGregor, D., Sritharan, M., and Whitaker, S. (2020)
 Indigenous Environmental Justice and
 Sustainability. *Current Opinion in Environmental
 Sustainability*, 43:35–
 40. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877343520300075>

November 11, 2020

Rights of Nature

Chapter 21 of Coolsaet;
 Gordon, Gwendolyn, Environmental Personhood
 (2017). Available at
 SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2935007>
 Geddis, Andrew and Ruru, Jacinta, Places as Persons:
 Creating a New Framework for Māori-Crown Relations
 (2019). Forthcoming, Jason Varuhas (ed), “The
 Frontiers of Public Law” (Hart Publishing, 2019),
 Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3380028>

November 18, 2020
 Social Justice

Recognition in the Context of Environmental and

Chapter 5 & 7 of Coolsaet; Conclusion of Waldron

November 25, 2020

Sustainability

Chapter 9, 22 & 23 of Coolsaet;
 Reference Material for the Week: [United Nations
 Sustainable Development Goals](#)

December 2, 2020

Intersectionality in Environmental and Social Justice

Chapter 24 of Coolsaet

December 9, 2020
 via email

No Class – Final Assignment to be delivered by 16:00

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC):

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC): <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact The Paul Menton Centre (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC Website for their deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) <https://carleton.ca/pmc>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/studentssupport/svpolicy/>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>

Department Policy

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations.

<https://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>