

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 5903 G – Contemporary Topics: Regulating Labour in the 21st Century – Bodies, Spaces, Flows, Utopias

TERM: Fall 2021

PREREQUISITES: Must be enrolled in one of the following Classifications:
Graduate - Normal

CLASS: Day & Time: Fridays, 11:35-14:25
Room: SA 502

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Ania Zbyszewska

CONTACT: Office: Room C475 Loeb Building
Office Hrs: Fridays 2:30-3:30pm, or by appointment
Telephone: N/A
Email: Ania.zbyszewska@gmail.com

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Adopting a range of critical (feminist, heterodox political economy, decolonial, ecological, etc.) perspectives, in this course we will consider historical and contemporary developments in how labour is conceptualized, organized, and regulated, and reflect on the human and more-than-human consequences of these moves.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Labour is an act, a process, a concept that is ubiquitous yet escapes easy categorizations. A site of, at once, freedom and exploitation, power and dis-empowerment, solidarity and fragmentation, resistance and acquiescence, love and domination, creation and destruction, labour – with all its contradictions – is integral to the re/production of political economies (capitalist, colonial and otherwise), different forms of sociality and community life, and socio-ecologies. Crucially, labour is socially (and legally) constituted, with legal norms, regulation and governance techniques playing key roles in delineating what work and whose labour is valued and deserves protection. Jurisdictional, geographical, normative and conceptual boundaries erected by law and regulation are always historically constituted and variously instantiated. Whether material, ideational or imagined, these boundaries have major consequences for

recognition (what and whose labour is deemed to be of value) and distribution (of power, access, opportunities, entitlements), making labour a key site of inequalities. These boundaries are, however, also imperfect and porous, subject to challenge, contestation, and change.

Adopting a range of critical (feminist, heterodox political economy, post-colonial, ecological, etc.) perspectives, in this course we will consider historical and contemporary developments in how labour is conceptualized, organized and regulated, and reflect on the human and more-than-human consequences of these moves. We will pay particular attention to law's constitutive role and the way in which it institutionalizes and reproduces labour processes and (unequal) labour relations. We will also critically scrutinize the effectiveness of policy and regulatory initiatives devised to address various contemporary problems, including exclusions, 'gaps', and 'misfits' stemming from global political-economic, technological, ecological and social transformations. We end by considering provocations, imaginaries and heterotopias that de-center paid and 'productive' work and instead foreground care, community, sustainability and socially-useful labour. Can – and should – law play a role in bringing these sorts of post-work, more-than-capitalist worlds about?

To explore these various questions, the course is organized around a series of themes: work and labour, bodies, temporalities, spaces, flows, socio-ecologies, solidarities, resistance, post-work, utopias. Working with and through these themes, each week, we will engage with theoretical and empirical works that examine the historical antecedents and contemporary realities of labour's many facets, and the role of law in their constitution.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Adelle Blackett, *Everyday Transgressions: Domestic Worker's Transnational Challenge to International Labor Law*. Ithaca, London: Cornell University Press, 2019. (available for purchase, as print or e-book)
- Sarah Swider, *Building China: Informal Work and the New Precariat*. Ithaca, London: Cornell University Press, 2015. (e-book, university library)
- Kathi Weeks, *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*. Duke University Press, 2011. (e-book, university library)

NOTE: Other essential weekly readings (with links) will be posted on Brightspace.

DELIVERY AND APPROACH

This seminar is delivered through weekly discussion sessions held on Fridays, starting at 11:35am and lasting around 2.5 hours (inclusive of a break). Attendance and active engagement

in these sessions are integral to the seminar design and, as such, are mandatory.

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.

- 15% Participation
- 25% Critical reflections on readings x 5 (5% each)
- 20% Class discussion facilitation
- 40% Final research project

Participation

You are responsible for attending and actively engaging in our weekly sessions.

Reflections

You will write five (5) short reflection papers (3-4 pages) on readings or sources of your choice. Each of the reflections must be associated with a unique course theme. These should not be summaries of the readings, but rather identify and explore key discussion points, and connect them to course themes. The reflections will be due (submitted to Brightspace) on Fridays, before the start of our session at 11:35am.

Class discussion facilitation

Students will be responsible for leading class discussion on a selected theme on a chosen week, beginning with week 2. I will prompt you to submit your preferences in week 1, and will do my best to accommodate everyone's choices. You will be responsible for summarizing the reading, reflecting on its link with the week's theme, identifying issues for discussion, and developing class activities pertaining to that reading.

Final project

The final project in this course will be a research-based output. Students can choose either to write a research paper (12-15 pages, excluding references) or curate a multi-media essay (photo essay or audio-essay/podcast of 20-30mins) accompanied by a written script/explanation contextualizing the piece, as well as a list of references documenting the research process. Students will receive some training on visual methodologies and on podcasting and a range of free resources (on podcasting, and podcasting software/tech) will be made available for their use.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Assignments that are due through Brightspace are deemed late if not submitted by the times indicated. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day or part of day that they are late. Late assignments are to be submitted through Brightspace, just like those submitted on time. Please note that I will not respond to questions or extension requests submitted on the weekend. Unless you are really dealing with an emergency, please write me between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

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

Session 1/ 10 September	Work, Labour and Law
Session 2/ 17 September	Labouring Bodies
Session 3 /24 September	Temporalities
Session 4/ 1 October	Spaces of Labour and Law's Boundaries
Session 5/ 8 October	Flows: Migration
Session 6/ 15 October	Flows: Supply Chains
Session 7/ 22 October	Special Session on Methodologies
<i>Week of 24 October</i>	<i>No Seminar/Reading Break</i>
Session 8/ 5 November	Socio-ecologies
Session 9/ 12 November	Solidarities
Session 10/ 19 November	Resistance
Session 11/26 November	Post-work
Session 12/ 3 December	Utopias

COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be taken in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

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 [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities](#) (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact 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 to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 where 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/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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/>.

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. Read more here:

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please 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/student-experience-resources/>.