

## Course Outline LAWS4800A

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**COURSE:** LAWS 4800A – Environmental and Social Justice

**TERM:** Winter 2023

**PREREQUISITES:** LAWS 2908- and Fourth-Year Standing

**CLASS:** Day & Time: Tuesday 11:35 – 2:25 pm  
Room: CO212

**INSTRUCTOR:** Danika Littlechild

**CONTACT:** Office: D487 Loeb Building  
Office Hrs: Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
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### 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 the Carleton University Bookstore

Liboiron, Max *Pollution is Colonialism* (2021) – available at Octopus Books

### **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.

**All components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade.**

As our course is based on class discussions, in each class the professor will provide an introduction to topics, issues and central questions for discussion. This will be followed by students' reading presentations. In every session, at least two students will discuss the readings under the guidance of the professor. The discussions will provide student reflections, illustrations and critiques of the readings. This will hopefully contribute to engaged discussion.

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.

As such, it is important that you be present during the class and do your best to contribute to the dialogue and discussion, whether verbal or written. Your participation will not only be assessed on how much you speak, but also 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, the format of the course will be a mix of Student Reading Presentations (one presentation per student before the end of term); four (4) Reading Reflections (to be completed by each student over the term); and a research paper (to be completed by the end of term).

**COURSEWORK**

Research Paper (10-12 double spaced pages)	40% of Final Mark
Reading Presentation	20% of Final Mark
Reading Reflections (4)	20% of Final Mark
Class Participation	20% of Final Mark

**LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS****Extension Bank**

I am sympathetic to the many challenges faced by students as we all try to get through the pandemic and adjust to the dynamic and shifting nature of our collective academic experiences. Many of you have gone from in person to online and back again.

I want to exercise fairness as an instructor in this course, and I wish to give you some flexibility in meeting assignment and paper deadlines without having to meet with me to make the request – which can feel stressful to initiate for students.

As such, every student in this course has a **seven (7) day Extension Bank** to use over the term at your own discretion and based on your own needs. Basically, I am giving all of you a one-week extension now, which is yours to use as you see fit. You are not required to use any of the days in your Extension Bank. I will be delighted if you are able to meet all the deadlines set out in this course.

However, if you find yourself in a situation in which you could use an extra day or two to complete an assignment or the paper, you have a reserve of seven (7) days to draw from. The seven (7) days includes the weekend. If you have a deadline that falls on a Friday and you ask to submit on a Monday, it means you are taking 3 days out of your Extension Bank.

*IMPORTANT: When you plan on using days from your Extension Bank, you must inform me via email ahead of the deadline for which you plan on using them. You cannot apply the days from your Extension Bank retroactively.*

I will then reply to your email notification with an update of how many days you have left in your Extension Bank for the remainder of the term.

**Additional Extensions**

The granting of additional extensions beyond the Extension Bank is determined by me as the

instructor, and I 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 me 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).

**IMPORTANT: Extensions cannot be applied to Reading Presentations.**

### Late Penalties

Late penalties will apply to any submissions of assignments or the research paper that do not have use of the Extension Bank or Additional Extensions.

Late Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- Deduction of 5% marks if the assignment is handed in after NOON on the due date (plus short grace period [30 min]) but before midnight.
- A further 5% if the assignment is handed-in anytime the 'next day' - from 12:01am to 11:59 pm.
- A further 10% is deducted at the beginning of each following day (at 12:01am) including weekend days.

### SCHEDULE

<b>Winter 2023 Sessional Dates and University Closures</b>	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website:</i> <a href="https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/">https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/</a>	
<b>January 9, 2023</b>	Winter term begins.
<b>January 10, 2023</b>	Introduction – no assigned course materials for this week.
<b>January 13, 2023</b>	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early winter courses.
<b>January 17, 2023</b>	<b>Positionality, Narratives and Perspectives:</b> Chapter 2 of Coolsaet; Acknowledgments and Introduction of Liboiron (pp. vii – 38); Kojola, Erik and Pellow, David “New directions in environmental justice studies: examining

	the state and violence" (2021) Environmental Politics Vol. 30, Nos. 1-2, pp 100-118
<b>January 20, 2023</b>	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
<b>January 24, 2023</b>	<b>Defining and Conceptualizing Environmental and Social Justice</b> Chapters 3, 4 & 5 of Coolsaet; McGregor, Deborah "Mino-Mnaamodzawin: Achieving Indigenous Environmental Justice in Canada" (2018) Journal of Environment and Society Advances in Research, Vol. 9 Issue 1, pp 7-24
<b>January 31, 2023</b>	<b>Toxics and Contamination:</b> Chapter 10 of Coolsaet; Chapter 1 of Liboiron; Report on the 2019 visit to Canada of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, available online at: <a href="http://www.srtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Canada-HRC-45_AUV.pdf">http://www.srtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Canada-HRC-45_AUV.pdf</a>
<b>February 1, 2023</b>	Last day for academic withdrawal from early winter courses.
<b>Feb 7</b>	<b>Biodiversity:</b> Chapter 11 of Coolsaet; Ray Justina, Olive Andrea and Beazley Karen "The biodiversity crisis in Canada: failures and challenges of federal and sub-national strategic and legal frameworks" (2021) <i>Facets</i> Vol. 6(1) pp. 1044-1068 <i>Additional Readings to be assigned.</i>
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Environmental Racism:</b> Chapter 17 of Coolsaet; Chapter 2 of Liboiron; Waldron, Ingrid "Environmental Racism in Canada" (2020) Canadian Commission for UNESCO <a href="https://en.ccunesco.ca/-/media/Files/Unesco/Resources/2020/07/EnvironmentalRacismCanada.pdf">https://en.ccunesco.ca/-/media/Files/Unesco/Resources/2020/07/EnvironmentalRacismCanada.pdf</a>
<b>February 20, 2023</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>February 20-24, 2023</b>	Winter break. No classes.
<b>February 28, 2023</b>	<b>Indigenous Peoples:</b> Chapter 20 of Coolsaet; <i>Additional readings to be assigned.</i>
<b>March 7, 2023</b>	<b>Gender:</b> 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, pp3-30; and Pradhan Lisa "Why Queer Liberation is an Environmental Justice Issue" (EarthJustice) available online at: <a href="https://earthjustice.org/blog/2020-june/why-queer-liberation-is-an-environmental-justice-issue">https://earthjustice.org/blog/2020-june/why-queer-liberation-is-an-environmental-justice-issue</a> and Bacigal, Lindsey "What is Gender Based Environmental Violence?" in Briarpatch Magazine (December 28, 2020) available online at: <a href="https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/what-is-gender-based-environmental-violence">https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/what-is-gender-based-environmental-violence</a>
<b>March 14, 2023</b>	<b>Intersectionality:</b> Chapter 24 of Coolsaet; Maina-Okori, Naomi Mumbi et al "Reimagining Intersectionality in Environmental and Sustainability Education: A Critical Literature Review"(November 2017) The Journal of Environmental

	Education 49(1): pp1-11; Malin SA, Ryder SS (2018) Developing deeply intersectional environmental justice scholarship. <i>Environ Sociol</i> 4(1):1–7
<b>March 21</b>	<b>Sustainability:</b> Chapters 9 & 23 of Coolsaet; Chapter 3 of Liboiron and McGregor, D., Sritharan, M., and Whitaker, S. (2020) Indigenous Environmental Justice and Sustainability. <i>Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability</i> , 43:35-40. <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877343520300075">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877343520300075</a>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>Rights of Nature:</b> Chapter 21 of Coolsaet; Gordon, Gwendolyn, Environmental Personhood (2017). Available at SSRN: <a href="https://ssrn.com/abstract=2935007">https://ssrn.com/abstract=2935007</a> ; and Geddis, Andrew and Ruru, Jacinta, Places as Persons: Creating a New Framework for Māori-Crown Relations (2019). Jason Varuhas (ed), “The Frontiers of Public Law” (Hart Publishing, 2019), Available at SSRN: <a href="https://ssrn.com/abstract=3380028">https://ssrn.com/abstract=3380028</a>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>Climate Change:</b> Chapter 12 of Coolsaet; Murdock, Esme “On Telling the Truth Unflinchingly: Climate Catastrophe and Colonialism” (2021) <i>Atmos</i> <a href="https://atmos.earth/climate-crisis-colonization-environmental-justice/">https://atmos.earth/climate-crisis-colonization-environmental-justice/</a> Indigenous Climate Action, <i>Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada</i> (2021)
<b>April 7, 2023</b>	Statutory holiday. University closed.
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Our Collective Path Forward:</b> Chapter 16 & 22 of Coolsaet; <i>Additional Readings to be assigned.</i>
<b>April 12, 2023</b>	Winter term ends. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.
<b>April 15-27, 2023</b>	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
<b>April 27, 2023</b>	All final take-home examinations are due on this day.

## University and Departmental Policies

### DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department’s expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

### 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/>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

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](mailto: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 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/>.

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