## Course Outline

### Course:  
LAWS 4800B – Environmental and Social Justice

### Term:  
Winter 2021

### Prerequisites:  
LAWS 2908 and Fourth-Year Honours Standing

### Class:  
Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule.

- **Day & Time:** All Courses in the Winter 2021 term are offered online.
- **Room:** Seminars in this course will be delivered in live online sessions using the Zoom conferencing platform during our regularly scheduled class time. In the event that a class is cancelled, a pre-recorded video and alternative assessments will be made in lieu of a live synchronous seminar.

### Instructor:  
Professor Danika Billie Littlechild

### Contact:  
Office Hrs: Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00 pm on the Zoom conferencing platform, or by appointment.

- **Telephone:** To be provided
- **Email:** danikalittlechild@cunet.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 TEXT

Coolsaet, Brendan (ed.) Environmental Justice: Key Issues in Environment and Sustainability (2020) – available at the Carleton University Bookstore, available for purchase online at: https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/home

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

Waldron, Ingrid R.G. There’s Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous & Black Communities (2018) – Available at Octopus Books, pickup or shipping anywhere in Canada: https://shop.octopusbooks.ca/LAWS4800

TEACHING METHOD AND 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.

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, have your camera on as much as possible, 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 / post, 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.

The students will be divided into two groups. Group 1 will have a synchronous session every Friday from 11:30 – 1:00 pm; Group 2 will have the same synchronous session every Friday from 1:00 –2:30 pm.

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 in class exercises and breakout groups, written reflections through weekly assigned worksheets and finally, discussions 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 Work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Mark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (15-20 double spaced pages)</td>
<td>50% of Final Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUE: Friday April 9, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Presentation</td>
<td>20% of Final Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Synchronous Class Participation</td>
<td>20% of Final Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) In Class Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Assigned Worksheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>One on One Meeting with Professor Littlechild to discuss progress and engagement in the course</td>
<td>10% of Final Mark</td>
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Guidance documents on the Reading Presentations and the Research Paper will be made available on the CULearn platform. The schedule of Reading Presentations will be confirmed in the first class. There are 11 sessions in the term and it is expected that every student will have the opportunity to give a presentation.

The One on One Meeting is intended to provide for more independent interactions with the professor that may not otherwise be possible given our virtual working environment. There are no specific preparations required for the One on One Meeting. The One on One Meeting may be scheduled at any time during the semester, whether during regular office hours or by appointment. The duration of the One on One Meeting will be ten minutes or longer.

**LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS**

All assignments and exercises for this class are to be submitted electronically via email or CULearn. The deadlines for assignments and the final paper will be 16:00 pm of the date the assignment or final paper is due. There will be a 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](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**

| January 15 | Introduction |

Supplemental Reading: Chapter 2 of Waldron


Supplemental Reading: Chapters 3 & 4 of Waldron

February 5  Climate Change: Chapters 12 & 13 of Coolsaet, and “A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy: Canada’s Strengthened Climate Plan to Create Jobs and Support People, Communities and the Planet” available online at: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/healthy_environment_healthy_economy_plan.pdf


February 15-19, 2021 Winter Break, No Classes


March 19, 2021  

March 26, 2021  

April 2, 2021  
**Statutory Holiday, University Closed**

April 9, 2021  

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**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](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/](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/](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/studentsupport/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/