
COURSE:	LAWS 4800B– Environmental and Social Justice
TERM:	Winter 2021
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2908 and Fourth-Year Honours Standing
CLASS:	Day & Time: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule. Room: All Courses in the Winter 2021 term are offered online.
	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:

Research Paper (15-20 double spaced pages) DUE: Friday April 9, 2021	50% of Final Mark
Reading Presentation	20% of Final Mark
Class Participation (1) Synchronous Class Participation (2) In Class Exercises (3) Assigned Worksheets (4) Discussion Board Participation	20% of Final Mark
One on One Meeting with Professor Littlechild to discuss progress and engagement in the course	10% of Final Mark

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>.

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

- January 22** **Defining and Conceptualizing Environmental and Social Justice:** Chapters 3, 4 & 5 of Coolsaet and McGregor, Deborah "Mino-Mnaamodzawin: Achieving Indigenous Environmental Justice in Canada" (2018) Journal of Environment and Society Advances in Research, Vol. 9 Issue 1, pp7-24
Supplemental Reading: Chapter 2 of Waldron
- January 29** **Toxics and Contamination:** Chapter 10 of Coolsaet, and the 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: http://www.srtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Canada-HRC-45_AUV.pdf
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 12** **Biodiversity:** Chapter 11 of Coolsaet, and the Living Planet Report 2020: Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss, WWF Canada, available online at: <https://wwf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Living-planet-report-2020.pdf>
- February 15-19, 2021**
February 26, 2021 **Winter Break, No Classes**
Environmental Racism: Chapter 17 of Coolsaet and Ilyniak, N. (2014) Mercury Poisoning in Grassy Narrows: Environmental Injustice, Colonialism and Capitalist Expansion in Canada McGill Sociological Review 4, pp43-66.
- March 5, 2021** **Indigenous Peoples and Decolonization:** Chapter 20 of Coolsaet, and 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, pp49-82,
- March 12, 2021** **Gender:** Chapter 18 of Coolsaet and 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: <https://earthjustice.org/blog/2020-june/why-queer-liberation-is-an-environmental-justice-issue> and Bacigal, Lindsey "What is Gender Based Environmental Violence?" in Briarpatch Magazine (December 28, 2020) available online at:

<https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/what-is-gender-based-environmental-violence>

March 19, 2021

Intersectionality: Chapter 24 of Coolsaet and 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

March 26, 2021

Sustainability: Chapters 9, 22 & 23 of Coolsaet, and 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>

April 2, 2021

Statutory Holiday, University Closed

April 9, 2021

Rights of Nature: Chapter 21 of Coolsaet; Gordon, Gwendolyn, Environmental Personhood (2017). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2935007> ; and 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>

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/>