Bodies at Work: Politics, Science, Law & Occupational Health
Labour Studies 780  Winter 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Stephanie Premji
EMAIL: spremlji@mcmaster.ca
LECTURE: Fridays, 11:30am-2:30pm, KTH-734

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Course Description
This course draws on interdisciplinary literature to investigate the current state of work and health in Canada and around the world. It will begin by developing a theoretical understanding of the political economy of work and health. Readings and discussions in the following sections will examine topics such as the embodiment of gendered, racialized and other forms of labour market inequality; the regulation of injured bodies (and minds) and role of the medico-legal system; and the impact of work injury and disease over the life course, and across generations and communities.

Course Learning Objectives
In this course students will:
- Develop an in-depth understanding of the main theories and debates in work and health in Canada and globally.
- Identify and critically evaluate scholarship in the field of work and health.
- Apply concepts and ideas learned in class in the writing of a major essay.
- Strengthen oral communication skills through class discussions and presentations.

Required Materials and Texts
Readings: All readings are available on Avenue to Learn.
Course Evaluation Breakdown

**Participation 25%**

Students are expected to read all class materials and engage in discussions during class that demonstrate reflection on and a grasp of the materials. The quality of interventions is more important than their frequency.

**Presentations 2 x 15%**

Each student will make two presentations in which they will critically discuss articles from the week’s readings as well as introduce a related concept or idea from an additional reading to be chosen by the student. After the presentation, the student will lead a class discussion. Evaluation will be based on a) ability to summarize readings; b) relevance and interest of new concept or idea; c) quality of presentation; d) ability to lead a class discussion (e.g. appropriateness of questions). A sign-up sheet will be distributed during Week 2.

**Essay: Anatomy of a Case 45%**

Drawing on class materials and additional literature, students will “dissect” a health and safety disaster or injury or illness case (15-20 pages double spaced). The purpose of the essay is to analyse rather than describe. This means that students should develop a thesis in relation to their topic and present evidence in support of their thesis. A short essay outline is due on March 6. Essays are due in class in hard copy on April 3rd. Late essays should be emailed to the instructor (please note the late policy below).

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

**Week 1 / January 10  Introduction**


**Week 2 / January 17  A Political Economy Lens**

- Zuberi, D. 2013. “Stuff gets missed”. An introduction to a growing health care
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Note: Presentation sign-up sheet today

Week 3 / January 24 Global Perspectives


Week 4 / January 31 Minds at Work


Week 5 / February 7 The Blame Game


**Week 6 / February 14 Regulating Risks**


**Week 7 / February 21 Mid-Term recess (Feb. 17-21)**

~There are no readings for this week~

**Week 8 / February 28 Regulating Bodies and Minds**


**Week 9 / March 6 Constructing Scientific Knowledge**

Knowledge) pages 72-84.


Note: Short essay outline due today

Week 10 / March 13 The Politics of Disease Recognition


Week 11 / March 20 Sex and Gender

Week 12 / March 27 Racialization and (Im)migration


Week 13 / April 3 The Future


Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

The essay should be submitted in class in hard copy.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

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<th>MARK</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-90</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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Late Assignments
Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, including Saturdays and Sundays. The instructor will permit extensions for exceptional circumstances only.

Avenue to Learn
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Academic Dishonesty:
http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.html
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Department/University Policies:
Labour Studies staff does not date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of student papers. All papers should be submitted/returned in-class, in tutorials or during Professor/TA office hours. Instructors who utilize Avenue to Learn will provide instructions on that preference.

Code of Conduct:
http://studentaffairs.mcmaster.ca
“McMaster University is a community dedicated to furthering learning, intellectual inquiry, the dissemination of knowledge and personal and professional development. Membership in this community implies acceptance of the principle of mutual respect for
the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study work and live within it.”

**Computer Use:**
Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

**Course Modifications:**
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email AND Avenue to Learn regularly during the term to note any changes.

**Email Communication Policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences:**
All e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor/TA receives a communication from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion. Please always include student name, ID, course # in messages.

**Evaluations (Online): A link will be sent before the end of classes.**
These help faculty and the School of Labour Studies to meet our goal of continually improving teaching effectiveness. All students in the course are invited and encouraged to complete the evaluation.

**Student Accessibility Services:** [http://sas.mcmaster.ca/](http://sas.mcmaster.ca/)
Location: MUSC – B107  Contact: 905-525-9140 extension: 28652

*NOTE: Disclosure of disability-related information is personal and confidential.*

Student Accessibility Services offers various supports for students with disabilities. We work with full time and part time students. SAS provides or assists students with their academic and disability-related needs, including: Learning Strategies, Assistive Technologies, Test & Exam Administration, Note-Taking Programs, and Classroom Accommodations. *Please inform the instructor if there are disability needs that are not being met.*
McMaster University Policy on Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy


**Student Success Centre:** [http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/](http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/)
**Location:** GH-110  905-525-9140 x24254

Some services include: student orientation, academic skills, volunteerism, educational planning, employment and career transition. Writing Support: [http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html](http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html)

**Student Wellness Centre:** [http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/](http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/)
**Location:** PGCLL - 210  905-525-9140 x27700

Provides services in: Personal and Psychological Counselling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services.