

Labour and the Environment

Labour Studies 311

Section: D100

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: Tom Walker

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Discussion Topics: Climate change has significant impacts on the nature of work and working people. Conversely, workers have a vital role to play in determining politically how the issues associated with climate change will be addressed. As the world's climate goes through radical changes, workers face unprecedented challenges as governments craft policy to mitigate or adapt to the many dimensions of global warming. This course will present a framework for evaluating and responding to alternative visions of a "just transition" and a "paradigm shift" and will survey what is known about the effects of climate change and relevant policies on the working world with a focus on Canada and British Columbia.

The course will examine the changing relationships between trade unions and environmental groups, how work in various industries contributes to climate change, and how climate-change policies affect workers in different ways. The course will pursue an understanding of the consequences of climate policies for different categories of workers, identified by economic sector, geographic location, gender, migration and immigration, and Aboriginal status.

COURSE OBJECTIVES or LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will have learned:

- how workers organizations are responding to climate change;
- how work practices can become more environmentally responsible;
- how government policy on climate change affects work and workers;
- how different types of work contribute to climate change;
- what alternatives there are.

Grading: Participation and seminar presentation: a seminar presentation schedule will be arranged during the first course meeting: 20%

Mid-term Exam: October 18. 20%

Term Essay: due November 22, 30%

Final Exam: 30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:\x09

All assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Morgan Centre for Labour Studies follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic honesty and misconduct procedures (S10.01-S10.04). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies available on the SFU website: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html>

Labour Studies Undergraduate Grading System:

A+	95	100	\x09\x09B+	80	-	84	\x09C+	65	-	69	
A	90	-	94	\x09\x09B	75	-	79	\x09C	60	-	64
A-	85	-	89	\x09\x09B-	70	-	74	\x09C-	55	-	59
D	50	54	\x09\x09F	0	49	\x09N	student did not complete				

Required Texts: "Climate change and labour: The need for a 'just transition'." International

Labour and the Environment

Journal of Labour Research Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2010.

David Coats, ed. Exiting from the crisis: towards a model of more equitable and sustainable growth. European Trade Union Institute, 2011.

Philip Lawn, ed. Environment and Employment: A Reconciliation (Routledge, 2009).

Carla Lipsig-Mummé, ed. What do we Know? What do we Need to Know? The State of Research on Work, Employment and Climate Change (York University) , December 2010.

David Thompson and Robert Duffy. Jobs, Justice, Climate: Building a Green Economy for BC Report prepared for the Jobs, Justice Climate conference in Vancouver, BC, September 10, 2010.

United Nations Environment Programme. Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low-carbon world. September 2008.

Recommended Texts: Selected readings from journals and books as specified in the detailed course outline.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: LBST 101 and 301 are strongly recommended.

Notes: Note on plagiarism; see below standard for all LBST courses.

All students are expected to read SFU's policies concerning academic honesty and student conduct [S 10.01 and S10.04]. The policies can be read at this website:
www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.