

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
COURSE OUTLINE
SOCIOLOGY 151B / CST 0449 (POSTWORK)

TERM: Winter Term 2020
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael E. Gardiner
OFFICE: SSC 5424 (661-2111, ex. 85139; e-mail: megardin@uwo.ca)
CLASS TIME & LOCATION: Weds. 9:30 am - 1:30 pm (SSC 5427)
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has a dual aim. The first is to chart radical transformations in the nature of work, especially in the Global North, over the last forty years, including: the globalization of capital and attendant 'offshoring' of jobs; intensifying occupational and existential 'precarity'; the effects of rapid automation and computerization; the growing ubiquity of so-called 'immaterial' and 'affective' labour; and the oft-hidden 'auto-

of b

COURSE OUTCOMES

- *If you attend to your responsibilities in this course, you will be
- *Understand some of the key theoretical texts in work and post

REQUIRED TEXTS

TBA

METHODS OF EVALUATION

This course is seminar-based, and hence reading and writing intensive. The required readings are intended to give students as broad a comprehension of the key debates and issues in each area of social theory as possible. Each student will be expected to give one oral presentation based on class readings, and submit in written form a week after the presentation (2000-2200 words; 8-10 pages, double-spaced, 12-scale font), worth 25% of the final grade. Students will also be expected to write one term paper (20-25 pages, 5-6000 words, double-spaced, 12-scale font), worth 60% of the total grade, which will be due Wednesday April 15th by 12 noon. Students are advised to develop a term paper outline by around mid-term and discuss it with the instructor. The remaining 15% is awarded for class participation. (Students missing more than three seminars without legitimate and documentable reasons run the risk of failing the course outright.) All papers submitted may be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). (The only acceptable excuses for missed deadlines will be for documented medical reasons or family bereavement/illness;

03. Kathi Weeks, 'Introduction: The Problem with Work', **The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries** (Durham, Duke University Press, 2011), 1-36 (37).

04. Kathi Weeks, 'Mapping the Work Ethic', **The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries** (Durham, Duke University Press, 2011), 37-78 (42).

Week Three (Bull)shit Work (Jan. 22)

05. Pierre Dardot and Christian Laval, 'Manufacturing the Neo-Liberal Subject', **The New Way of the World: On Neo-Liberal Society** (London and New York: Verso, 2013), 255-99. (45)

06. Nick Dyer-Witheford, 'Mobile', **CyberProletariat: Global Labour in the Digital Vortex** (London: Pluto Press, 2015), 102-23 (22).

07. David Graeber, 'On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs', **Abolish Work: A Lazy Exposition of Philosophical Ergophobia** edited by Nick Ford (Berkeley: LBC Books, 2016), 39-46 (8).

08. Sebastian Olma, 'Never Mind the Sharing Economy: Here's Platform Capitalism', **Serendipity: For a Radical Politics of Innovation** (London: Repeater Books, 2016), 163-82 (20).

09. Roland Paulsen, 'Mapping out Empty Labor', **Empty Labor: Idleness and Workplace Resistance** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 57-71 (15).

Week Four 'Invisible' Work (Jan. 29)

10. Tithi Bhattacharya, 'How Not to Skip Class: Social Reproduction of Labor and the Global Working Class', **Social Reproduction Theory: Remapping Class, Recentering Oppression**, edited by Tithi Bhattacharya (London: Pluto Press, 2017), 68-93 (26).

11. Christian Fuchs, 'Theorizing Digital Labour on Social Media', in **Digital Labour and Karl Marx** (London and New York: Routledge, 2014), 243-82 (40).

12. Craig Lambert, 'Shadow Work in Restaurants, Travel, and Shopping', **Shadow Work: The Unpaid, Unseen Jobs that Fill your Day** (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2015), 139-99 (61).

13. Maurizio Lazzarato, 'The American University: A Model of the Debt Society', **Governing by Debt** (Los Angeles: Semiotext(e), 2015) (61-90) (30).

Week Five Precarity (Feb. 5)

14. Silvia Federici, 'Precarious Labor: A Feminist Viewpoint', **The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest** (2008), 1-9 (9).

Pt. 2– PostWork Strategies

Week Nine -The Refusal of Work (March 4th)

26. Tim Christiaens, 'Neoliberalism and the Right to Be Lazy: Inactivity as Resistance in Lazzarato and Agamben', *Rethinking Marxism* 30(2), 2018, 256-74 (19).
27. Roland Paulsen, 'How to Succeed at Work Without Really Trying', *Empty Labor: Idleness and Workplace Resistance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 72-99 (28).
28. Nicholas Thoburn, 'The Refusal of Work', *Deleuze, Marx and Politics* (London and New York, 2003), 103-38 (36).
29. Kathi Weeks, 'Marxism, Productivism, and the Refusal of Work', *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), 79-111 (33).

Week Ten- Alternative Pleasures (March 11th)

30. Roland Barthes, 'Dare to be Lazy', *The Grain of the Voice: Interviews 1963-1980* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1985), 338-345 (8).
31. Ryan Calhoun, 'The Libertarian Virtue of Slack', *Abolish Work: A Lazy Exposition of Philosophical Ergophobia* edited by Nick Ford (Berkeley: LBC Books, 2016), 217-21 (5).
32. Billy Ehn and Orvar Lofgren, 'Daydreaming', *The Secret World of Doing Nothing* (Berkeley: The University of California Press), 123-206 (84).
33. David Frayne, 'Alternative Pleasures', *The Refusal of Work: The Theory and Practice of Resistance to Work* (London: Zed Books, 2015), 157-88 (11).
34. Grant A. Mincy, 'The Ecology of Play', *Abolish Work: A Lazy Exposition of Philosophical Ergophobia* edited by Nick Ford (Berkeley: LBC Books, 2016), 138-46 (8).
35. Bertrand Russell, 'In Praise of Idleness', *Why Work? Arguments for the Leisure Society* edited by Vernon Richards (London: Freedom Press, 1977), 25-34 (10).

Week Eleven Universal Basic Income (March 18th)

36. Boris Frankel, 'Beyond Income Solutions', **Fictions of Sustainability: The Politics of Growth and Post-Capitalist Futures** (Melbourne: Greenmeadows, 2018), 231-74 (44).

37. Philippe Van Parijs, 'The Universal Basic

47. Alex Williams and Nick Srnicek, 'A New Common Sense', *Inventing the Future: Postcapitalism and a World Without Work* (London and New York: Verso, 2015), 129-54 (25).

48. Ben Reynolds, 'What is to be Done?', *The Coming Revolution: Capitalism in the 21st Century* (Alresford: Zero Books, 2018), 236-68 (32).

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Laptop Policy

The use of laptops and similar devices (tablet computers, smart phones) is solely permitted for read-only documents.

A Note on Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. See Scholastic Offences (below) for the link to Scholastic Discipline regulations.

PlagiarismChecking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com: <http://www.turnitin.com>

ScholasticOffences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Accommodation

Only in exceptional circumstances may a student be provided special accommodation in the completion of a course requirement (i.e., exams, papers). To request a one-time accommodation (brief illness, family emergency), the student should inform the professor when they are able so accommodation can be made. To request other accommodation(s), the student must first meet with the Graduate Chair to discuss options. Medical documentation, where required, will be kept on file in the Sociology graduate program office.

- x Active engagement in learning and commitment to quality (being prepared for classes; participating and listening actively to other; using technology and social