



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2025
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): February 2031
 Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: AIS 210	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)										
Course Full Title: Introduction to Work and Labour Studies Course Short Title: Intro to Work & Labour Studies											
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	Department/School: Arts and Integrated Studies										
Calendar Description: An introduction to the critical study of paid work in Canada. Students learn to analyze wage work as a social system; understand the relationship between colonialism and capitalism; and think strategically about their place in the job market, the rights of workers, and trade unions.											
Prerequisites (or NONE):	None.										
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: NONE Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Twice per year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36										
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tutorials/workshops</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	Lecture/seminar	15	Tutorials/workshops	30					Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because: Students may have an individual perspective and work history, but this course examines labour as a social phenomenon and requires a more critically and academically informed view of work and capitalism.
Lecture/seminar	15										
Tutorials/workshops	30										
Total hours	45										
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No	Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: No Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>										
Department approval	Date of meeting: November 25, 2024										
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: January 17, 2025										
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: February 28, 2025										

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critique the basic structures of work under capitalism, including its relationship with patriarchy, racism, and colonialism.
2. Explain the basics of labour law in BC, including the Employment standards act, the Labour Relations Code, and the Human Rights Act, as they apply to workers.
3. Analyze strategies workers have employed individually and collectively to improve their working conditions.
4. Demonstrate fundamental knowledge needed to navigate the labour market in Canada.
5. Relate post-secondary study to current and future workplace and careers.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Portfolio:	40%	Quizzes/tests/midterm:	20%	%
Assignments:	40%		%	%

Details:

Portfolio: Consists of critical reflections about learning process, as well as small, low-stakes experiential research assignments such as finding and unpacking a job posting and writing a resume, and getting it reviewed by CECE.

Assignments: Includes small research assignments examining both academic theories (e.g. theories of wage work) and practical research assignments (e.g. summarizing grey literature about job search strategies).

Quizzes: Would be used to review key course concepts and to track student progress in achieving learning outcomes.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Seminar-style class discussions with extensive group work, including low-stakes, in-class presentations.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Online resource	Canadian Women's Foundation	The facts about the gender wage gap in Canada, https://www.canadianwomen.org/the-facts/the-wage-gap/	
2. Article	Jessica Evans	"Colonialism, Racism, and the transition to Capitalism in Canada," from <i>Case studies in the origins of capitalism</i>	2018
3. Article	Jessica Gerrard	"All that is solid melts into work: Self-work, the learning ethic, and the work ethic"	2014
4. Online resource	WorkBC	<i>BC's Labour Market Outlook: 2023 Edition</i>	2023
5. Online resource	Worker Solidarity Network	"Your rights as a worker in BC"	2019

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

- Why work? What do we want from our jobs?
- Why is our society organized like this? Colonialism and capitalism in Canada
- Work in capitalism – wages, labour time, and power relations
- Work in capitalism – gendered work and the pay gap
- Work in capitalism – racism, colonialism, and segmented labour markets
- Work in capitalism – what is a good job? How do we find one?
- Work in capitalism – can we make a good job? Entrepreneurialism, creative industries, and the hustle
- Work in capitalism – work in the era of AI
- Basics of worker rights – the Employment Standards Act
- Trade unions and the Labour Relations Act
- Racism, sexism, and the Human Rights Tribunal
- Strategies for defending your rights as a worker
- Job categories and Canadian immigration law