

Course Outline: Soci312—Sociology of Work and Industry
Fall 2020

Instructor:

Ian Van Haren (ian.vanharen@mail.mcgill.ca)

Teaching Assistants:

C. Ancliffe & G. Juteau

Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of work and industry. Topics covered include the development of the world of work from the rise of industrial capitalism to the postindustrial age; responses of workers and managers to changing organizational, technological and economic realities; and interrelations between changing demands in the workplace and the functioning of the labour market. The focus is on Canada but comparative examples from other contexts are also presented.

Prerequisites:

None.

Instructional Method and Remote Delivery:

Given the Covid-19 pandemic, this course is offered through remote delivery. Students are expected to keep up with the required readings and watch pre-recorded lectures which will replace Monday and Wednesday class sessions. On Wednesdays, there will be optional Q&A sessions with the instructor in Zoom which will not be recorded. On Fridays, we will have an online class session in Zoom (accessible through myCourses) from 8:50-9:25 am. We will also have a few live class sessions with guest speakers on occasional Mondays and Wednesdays. Students are encouraged to participate in live sessions if they are able to do so, but the relevant content will be recorded and made available to view at a later time on myCourses for students who cannot attend live class sessions. To replace in-class activities, we will use the Discussion Board on myCourses.

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

This is a 3-credit hour course. Students should expect to watch or participate in up to 2.5 hours of pre-recorded or live class sessions each week and complete an additional six to eight hours of independent reading, study, and writing in an average week over the course of the semester.

Required Course Materials:

As described in the course schedule, we will use the following textbook:

Krahn, H. J., K. D. Hughes & G. S. Lowe. 2020. *Work, Industry, and Canadian Society, 8th Edition*. Nelson.

Please purchase the 8th Edition of the textbook. In addition, I have assigned additional readings that are available online through McGill's library or will be uploaded to the myCourses platform. As the semester progresses, there may be some minor changes to the supplemental readings.

Course Outline:

Note: KHL refers to our course textbook, *Work, Industry, and Canadian Society, 8th Edition*.

Unit 1: Historical and theoretical perspectives & the Canadian labour market

Week 1: Historical Perspectives on Work (Complete by Sept. 4)

Recommended reading: "Introduction" in KHL text, pages xxv-xxxiv.

Required reading: Ch 1 KHL text + p 179-182 of ch6 KHL text.

Week 2: Contemporary Issues & Household labour (Complete by Sept. 11)

Labour Day – September 7, 2020

Read: Ch 2 KHL text (but skip p 36-43) + Ch 7 KHL text (but skip p 239-246)

Week 3: Canadian Employment Trends (Complete by Sept 18)

Add-Drop deadline – September 15, 2020

Guest Speaker: Nikki Tummon (Sociology Reference Librarian), 8:35 am, Wed. Sept. 16, 2020.

Read: Ch3 KHL text + p 177-179 & 183-210 of Ch 6 KHL text

+ Qian, Y. & S. Fuller. 2020. [COVID-19 and the Gender Employment Gap Among Parents of Young Children](#). *Canadian Public Policy*.

Week 4: Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Jobs (Complete by Sept 25)

Read Ch 4 KHL text + p 142-147 of Ch5 KHL text

+ St-Denis, X. 2020. [Sociodemographic Determinants of Occupational Risks of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada](#). *Canadian Review of Sociology*.

+ *New York Times – The Daily*. 2020, Jul 15. "[One Meat Plant, Achut Deng](#)" - Listen to full podcast (33:46). Transcript also available online.

Week 5: Labour Markets: Opportunities and Inequality (Complete by Oct 2)

Read Ch5 KHL text + p 210-220 of Ch6 KHL text.

Please also read the following articles to prepare for the guest lectures next week:

+ Grant, T. 2011, Oct 14. [What's in a name? A job, maybe](#). *Globe and Mail*.

