

# Labour and Employment Law

Winter 2023

**INSTRUCTOR:** Judy Fudge  
**EMAIL:** fudgej@mcmaster.ca

**Class Time and Location:** Monday,  
7– 10 PM in LRW 1055

**OFFICE:** KTH 722  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays, 5:00 to 6 pm or on Zoom  
by appointment  
**TA:** Jelena Starcevic- starcej@mcmaster.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** on Zoom by appointment

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Location: MUSC – B107

Contact: 905-525-9140 extension: 28652

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<http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/>

GH-110 905 525-9140 x24254

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<http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/>

PGCLL - 210 905 525-9140x27700

## Course Description

The law plays a major role in shaping almost every aspect of work, from what counts as employment to establishing workers’ basic duties on the job and their rights at work, through their right to organize, to how and when unions are allowed to bargain and go on strike. Moreover, the law regulating employment takes three forms – the common law, direct statutory intervention and legislation designed to promote self-regulation - and each form has a different justification. This course explores how these different legal regimes frame workplace issues. What interests - the workers, the employers, and the public - does the law try to balance, and which side does it favour?

This course is designed as in-person course as in addition to lectures we will be working on exercises in pairs or groups throughout the term. There will be a series of assignments, including a group assignment, that you will be submitting on Avenue to Learn. A weekly check list will be provided, and you should download the Brightspace app to keep track of assignments. You should do your readings before the class so that you can participate in the exercises and discussions.

## Course Learning

The course aims to develop knowledge of key concepts and regulatory mechanisms related to employment law and labour law. Students will develop an understanding of the common law’s distinctive methodology and how common law interacts with direct statutory intervention and collective bargaining. The course will assist students in comparing these different regulatory regimes – common law, direct statutory regulation and collective bargaining legislation. Students will develop critical thinking and effective communication skills by facilitating critical discussions of the central claims raised in the readings and lectures. Collaborative work skills will be cultivated through a group assignment.

## Required Materials and Texts

Required text: David J. Doorey, *THE LAW OF WORK: SECOND and COMPLETE EDITION* (Toronto; Emond 2020). You should purchase this text. It is available from the McMaster bookstore in hardcover or on-line. For each class you will be responsible for reading about 75 pages of the textbook and hard copy is easier to work with. It is expected that you will have read the materials so that you will be prepared to discuss, engage with them, and you will be assessed on them in the assignments.

Students are also expected to consult the course's Avenue to Learn site several times a week. Checklists, videos, PowerPoint and background information are available there.

## Course Evaluation Breakdown

### Four individual take-home assignments

1. Wednesday **February 1 at noon**- Week 4 **worth 10 marks, submit answer on Avenue to Learn**

Short fact situation question. This assignment will be released 24 hours before it is due. Word limited stipulated on assignment.

2. Wednesday **March 1 at noon** - Week 8 **worth 15 marks, submit answer on Avenue to Learn**

Fact situation based on week 6 and week 8 with a component about different systems of regulation. This assignment will be released 24 hours before it is due. Word limited stipulated on assignment

3. Wednesday **March 15 at noon** – Week 10 **worth 10 marks, submit answer on Avenue to Learn**

Short answer test based on Chapters 31, 32, 33, 34. This assignment will be released 24 hours before it is due. Word limited stipulated on assignment.

4. Wednesday **March 22 at noon** - Week 11 **worth 10 marks, submit answer on Avenue to Learn**

Short fact situation question. This assignment will be released 24 hours before it is due. Word limited stipulated on assignment.

### Group assignment: Pecha Kucha and presentation instructions

1. Monday **April 10 at noon** – Week 14 **worth 25 marks, submit on Avenue to Learn. Watch the presentations and vote for the best one during the class on April 10.**

This is a group assignment worth 25 marks each – prepare Pecha Kucha presentation on a labour and employment issue. See Pecha Kucha assignment and presentation

instructions in Assignment Folder under Course instruction. One member of the group should submit the presentations in the group folder.

Establish 5-person group by March 8 and submit members' names to instructor.

**Take home assignment: reflective essay**

1. Monday **April 17 at noon, worth 30 per cent, submit on Avenue to Learn**

Short reflective essay – minimum 1250 and maximum 1500 words not including footnotes. This assignment will be released on April 3.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 January 9**

Introduction to the course. Themes, operation, assessment.

### **Week 2 January 16**

Doorey, The Law of Work pp. 3-67

#### **Part I: The Law of Work: Themes, Frameworks and Perspective**

- 1: Canadian Work Law in a Nutshell
- 2: A Framework for Analyzing the Law of Work
- 3: Key Perspectives That Shape the Law of Work
- 4: What is Employment?

### **Week 3 January 23**

Doorey, The Law of Work pp. 73-95; 271-283; 459-501; 681-704

#### **Part II: The Common Law Regime 73-95**

*Formation and Requirements of an Employment Contract*

- 5: A Brief History of the Common Law Model of Employment
- 6: The Job Recruitment and Hiring Process

#### **Part III: The Regulatory Regime 271-283**

17: Introduction to the Regulatory Regime

#### **Part IV: Industrial Relations and the Collective Bargaining Regime 459-501**

28. Introduction to the Collective Bargaining Regime and the Canadian Labour Movement
- 29 A Brief History of Labour and the Law
- 30: Why do Workers Join Union, and What Effects Do Unions Have on Business?

#### **Part V. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Work 681-704**

39: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Work

### **Week 4 January 30**

Doorey, *The Law of Work*, pp. 337-390

21: Introduction to Human Rights at Work

22: The Two-Step Human Rights Model and the Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination

23: The Bona Fide Occupational Requirements, The Duty to Accommodate and Other Discrimination Defences

**Assignment 1 – 10 per cent due February 1 at noon submit answer on Avenue to Learn.**

### **Week 5 February 6**

Doorey, *The Law of Work*, pp. 97-152; 285-291; 305-320

7: The Requirements to Create and Modify an Employment Contract

8: Expressed and Ancillary Employment Contract Terms

9: Implied and Ancillary Employment Contract Terms

18: Wage Regulation 285-291

19: Regulating Hours of Work, Time Off, and Overtime 305-320

### **Week 6 February 13**

Doorey, *The Law of Work*, pp. 153-245

*The End of an Employment Contract*

10: Termination by an Employer with "Reasonable Notice"

11: Termination by "Frustration"

12: Summary Dismissal: Termination for Cause Without Notice

13: "You Forced Me to Quit!": The Special Case of Constructive Dismissal

14: Damages in Wrongful Dismissal Lawsuits

15: "I Quit!": Termination of the Employment Contract by the Employee

### **Week 7 Reading week February 20 Class cancelled**

### **Week 8 February 27**

Doorey, *The Law of Work*, pp. 321-335

20: Regulating the End of Employment Contracts

Review – Relationship between the contract of employment and employment regulation

**Assignment 2 – 15 per cent due March 1 at noon submit answer on Avenue to Learn.**

### **Week 9 March 6**

Doorey, The Law of Work, pp 503-556

Canadian collective bargaining in context

31: The Unionization Process

32: Unfair Labour Practices and the right to organize

33: Collective Bargaining and the Making of a Collective Agreement

**Establish Pecha Kucha group and submit group members' names to instructor.**

### **Week 10 March 13**

Doorey, The Law of Work, pp.557-584; 661-678

34: The Law of Industrial Conflict

38: Public Sector Labour Relations

**Assignment 3 – 10 per cent due March 15 at noon submit answer on Avenue to Learn**

### **Week 11 March 20**

Doorey, The Law of Work pp. 585-660

35: The Collective Agreement

36: Grievances and Labour Arbitration and “Just Cause” for Discipline in the Unionized Workplace

37: The Regulation of Unions

**Assignment 4 - 10 per cent due March 22 at noon submit answer on Avenue to Learn.**

### **Week 12 March 27**

Discussion of how to do the Pecha Kucha assignment.

This class discussion will be critical for the group assignment.

Overview and review for take home.

### **Week 13 April 3 No Class**

Release take home April 3

Group work on Pecha Kucha

### **Week 14 April 10 Class is 90 minutes long.**

**Group assignments – Pecha Kucha presentation - 25 per cent due April 10 by noon submit on Avenue to Learn.** See Pecha Kucha assignment and presentation instructions in Assignment Folder under Course instruction

Pecha Kucha presentations in class and vote **on presentations. Bonus points for voting.**

## Take Home – Due April 17 through Avenue to Learn by NOON.

### Course Policies

#### Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted on Avenue to Learn in the appropriate assignment folder.

#### Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

#### Late Assignments

The due dates for assignments are **firm**. For instructions regarding submitting assignments the instructions for the specific assignment see above.

#### Absences, Missed Work, Illness

On-line self-reporting tool – illness lasting less than 3 days.

<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form> This form can only be used once per term. Instructors are not allowed to accept medical notes! These must be submitted to your Faculty office. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please also communicate with the course instructor. The value of in-class assignments that are missed for medical or other accepted reason **may** be added to the take home.

### **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, usernames 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.

### **Turnitin.com**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **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.

In this course, we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy for this purpose.



## **Department/University Policies:**

### **Pandemic Related Policies**

Students are reminded that you must complete MacCheck in order to obtain clearance every day that you are on campus.

All instructors and students must wear a mask in the classroom, unless they have been granted an exemption. If anyone refuses to put on a mask or leave, the class will be cancelled as is required under university policy.

Eating is still not permitted in a teaching/learning setting, which includes classrooms. You can remove your mask temporarily to drink water.

### **Absence Reporting:**

<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form>

On-line self-reporting tool – illness lasting less than 3 days. Can only be used once per term. Instructors are not allowed to accept medical notes! These must be submitted to your Faculty office. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please also communicate with the course instructor.

### **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.”

This code of conduct applies to the on-line environment and all of our interactions with each other on-line or in person.

### **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 (if used by instructor) *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 # and TA name in messages.**

**Please note that the instructor and TA will not be replying to emails over the weekend and allow 24 hours for a response.**

### **Evaluations (On-line):**

<http://evals.mcmaster.ca>, and log in via MACID.

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/>

**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**

- <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

### **Student Success Centre:**

<http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/>

**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>

**Student Wellness Centre:**

<http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/>

**PGCLL - 210 905-525-9140 x27700**

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