

**SEMINAR FOR HISTORY MAJORS:
LABOUR AND THE LEFT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Hist 490E (201)
Tuesdays, 3:30pm-5:20pm
Buchanan Tower 1207**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Benjamin Isitt
Office: Buchanan Tower 1118
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3pm, or by appointment
Email. isitt@interchange.ubc.ca / Tel. 604-822-5161

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From militant strikes of coal miners in the nineteenth century to twenty-first-century struggles of teachers, hospital workers, and other public-sector workers, labour relations has had a major impact in shaping British Columbia's economic and political landscape. Politically, a shift can be discerned on the left, from labour-based socialist parties to modern movements influenced by environmentalism, globalization, and indigenous struggles. Engaging debates over class and power relations, this course reveals important linkages to real-world events and themes. Assignments build toward a major essay, grounded in archival records at the UBC Special Collections.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

We will work toward the following learning outcomes this semester:

- Evaluate the origins, aims, and evolution of British Columbia's labour and left-wing movements and their role in shaping the province's economy and its political system;
- Access, analyze, and synthesize primary archival sources into an original research essay;
- Engage historiographic debates and share your views with colleagues;
- Present a summary of your research topic and research methods with your peers;
- Apply ideas discussed in the classroom to current events, trends, and themes.

READINGS

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Weekly Discussion Readings will be posted online at our class website: <http://www.vista.ubc.ca>. It is essential to complete Readings prior to each meeting so you can fully participate in discussions. For your Historiography, you will select a scholarly book in consultation with the instructor, alongside journal articles.

EVALUATION

Participation	20%	All Term
Select Essay Topic & Sources	5%	January 18
Proposal & Historiography	20%	February 8
Newspaper Review	10%	March 8
Oral Presentation	5%	To be scheduled
Research Essay	40%	April 12

Participation | 20%

In a seminar course, participation is vital for your benefit and that of your fellow students. Participation means completing assigned readings in advance of each week's meeting, and critically engaging these works so that you are able to contribute meaningfully to seminar discussions. To help facilitate this process, you are expected to come prepared for each seminar with a Discussion Sheet containing two (2) questions and/or comments relating to each assigned reading. Prior to the class, email this discussion sheet to me, and bring along a hard copy to consult in class. Participation marks will be assigned as follows: Unexcused absence=0; Attend but do not contribute=1; Contribute to class discussion=2; Contribute in a meaningful way=3.

Select Essay Topic & Sources | 5% | Email instructor by January 18

You will select an archival collection of an organization or individual from the UBC Special Collections (in the Barber Learning Centre / http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/mss_col.html) and develop a research topic that relates to this body of primary sources. You will also select one book relating to this topic, as well as five academic journal articles. Please consult with me during the first two weeks of class or during my office hours to discuss potential topics and sources, then send me a short email by January 18 with your: (1) topic (2) archival collection (3) book and (4) journal articles. Don't hesitate to ask!

Proposal & Historiography | 20% | 5 pages | Submit by February 8

You will write a five (5) page Proposal & Historiography relating to your essay topic. This will include the main argument of your essay, any challenges relating to the research, interpretation, and writing, as well as a critical discussion of your book and journal articles.

Newspaper Review | 10% | 2 pages | Submit by March 8

You will submit a two (2) page critical discussion of how mainstream and/or labour newspapers covered your organization or individual, using newspapers on microfilm or in the stacks of the UBC Library. Please consult with me on the appropriate newspaper(s) and time period(s) for research.

Oral Presentation | 5% | 10 Minutes | To be scheduled for March

You will prepare and deliver a brief ten (10) minute presentation summarizing your essay topic, main argument, primary sources, and any challenges in research, writing or interpretation. This will be followed by a short Q & A where classmates can provide feedback and assistance.

Research Essay | 40% | 15-20 pages | Submit by April 12

You will write an original research essay, grounded in the primary sources from your Archival Collection and supplemented by material previously submitted and revised from your Proposal & Historiography and Newspaper Review. It is okay to cut and paste this material and revise it based on feedback from the instructor and classmates. But the main body of the essay should be based on your original research, interpretation, and writing from the archival records in the Special Collections. The main purpose of this essay assignment is for you to be a detective of the past, a historian in your own right (rather than regurgitating information from secondary sources).

STYLE AND SOURCES

You will submit all written assignments in **hard copy** (rather than by email), except for the weekly Discussion Sheet which will be submitted by email before each class meeting (isitt@interchange.ubc.ca). Work should be double-spaced in 12-point font.

Your Proposal & Historiography, Newspaper Review, and Research Essay should conform with the History Department Style Guide (<http://history.ubc.ca/examples>) and the Chicago Manual of Style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html), and include a Bibliography of all works cited. Quotations and facts should be referenced with Footnotes. Formal citation is not required for weekly Discussion Sheets.

Cited material should be based on printed sources only (books, academic journals, government records, newspapers on microfilm, and archival sources from the UBC Special Collections). Internet sources are not acceptable, with the exception of scholarly journals accessed through the UBC Library website, unless special permission is granted by the instructor.

ACADEMIC ETHICS & PLAGIARISM

Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic Regulations” for the university policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is presenting another person’s ideas as your own, without giving credit, and is considered intellectual theft by the University. Quoting from sources without proper footnotes is a form of plagiarism and may result in disciplinary action by the History Dept. and/or the University. If you have questions about how to cite your sources properly, and avoid plagiarism, please ask. Also, consult the History Department Style Guide (www.history.ubc.ca/examples) and UBC’s Academic Integrity and Plagiarism materials at the back of this syllabus or online at learningcommons.ubc.ca/get-study-help/academic-integrity/.

Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due on the dates specified in this syllabus. A penalty of 10% will be deducted for each day past the due date. The deadline for the Research Essay is firm, so papers will not be accepted after April 12, 2011.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan 4 Week 1: Introduction and Special Collections Visit

Part I: Historiography

Jan 11 Week 2: Debates on the Role of Class in BC History

Leier, Mark. "W(h)ither Labour History: Regionalism, Class, and the Writing of BC History." *BC Studies*, 111 (1996): 61-75.

Palmer, Bryan D. "Class and the Writing of History: Beyond BC." *BC Studies*, 111 (1996): 76-84.

Strong-Boag, Veronica. "Moving Beyond Tired 'Truths': Or, Let's Not Fight the Old Battles." *BC Studies*, 111 (1996): 84-87.

McDonald, Robert A. J. "The West is a Messy Place." *BC Studies*, 111 (1996): 88-92.

Marchak, Patricia. "Class, Regional, and Institutional Sources of Social Conflict in BC." *BC Studies*, 27 (Autumn 1975), 30-49.

Phillip Resnick. "The Political Economy of BC – A Marxist Perspective." In Paul Knox and Resnick, eds., *Essays in BC Political Economy* (Vancouver: New Star, 1974): 3-12.

* Remember to submit your weekly Discussion Sheet by email before the start of class *
(isitt@interchange.ubc.ca)

Jan 18 Week 3: Theories of Class Formation, "Western Exceptionalism," and the Left Tradition

Bercuson, David Jay. "Labour Radicalism and the Western Industrial Frontier: 1897-1919." *Canadian Historical Review*, 58, no. 2 (June 1977): 154-175.

Belshaw, John Douglas. "The British Collier in British Columbia: Another Archetype Reconsidered." *Labour/Le Travail*, 34 (1994): 11-36.

Seager, Allen. "Socialists and Workers: The Western Canadian Coal Miners, 1900-21." *Labour/Le Travail*, 16 (Fall 1985): 23-59.

Leier, Mark. "Ethnicity, Urbanism, and the Labour Aristocracy: Rethinking Vancouver Trade Unionism, 1889-1909." *Canadian Historical Review*, 74, no. 4 (December 1993): 510-534.

* Submit your Essay Topic & Sources in a short email before the start of class *

Jan 25 Week 4: Race, Labour and the Left

Lutz, John. "After the Fur Trade: The Aboriginal Labouring Class in British Columbia, 1849-1890." *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, 3 (1992): 69-93.

Parnaby, Andrew. "'The Best Men that Ever Worked the Lumber': Aboriginal Longshoremens on Burrard Inlet, BC, 1863-1939," *Canadian Historical Review*, 87:1 (March 2006), 53-78.

Creese, Gillian. "Exclusion or Solidarity? Vancouver Workers Confront the 'Oriental Problem.'" *BC Studies*, 80 (Winter 1988-89), 24-51.

Campbell, Peter. "East Meets Left: South Asian Militants and the Socialist Party of Canada in British Columbia, 1904-1914." *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, 20 (1999): 35-65.

Part II: Early Movements to 1945

Feb 1 Week 5: Class Conflict to 1914

- Leier, Mark. "Solidarity on Occasion: The Vancouver Free Speech Fights of 1909 and 1912." *Labour/Le Travail*, 23 (1989): 39-67.
- Conley, James. "'Open Shop' Means Closed to Union Men: Carpenters and the 1911 Vancouver Building Trades General Strike." *BC Studies*, 91-92 (1991-92): 127-151.
- Hinde, John R. "'Stout Ladies and Amazons': Women in the British Columbia Coal Mining Community of Ladysmith, 1912-14." *BC Studies*, 114 (1997): 33-57.
- Roy, Reginald. "The Seaforths and the Strikers: Nanaimo, August 1913." *BC Studies*, 43 (Autumn 1979): 81-93.
- Document: "The Vancouver Island Strike" (c. 1913)

Feb 8 Week 6: The First World War and Postwar Labour Revolt

- Seager, Allen and David Roth. "British Columbia and the Mining West: A Ghost of a Chance." in Craig Heron, ed., *The Workers' Revolt in Canada: 1917-1925* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998): 231-67.
- Isitt, Benjamin. "Searching for Workers' Solidarity: One Big Unionism and the Victoria General Strike of 1919." *Labour/Le Travail* 60 (Fall 2007): 11-44.
- Bernard, Elaine. "Last Back: Folklore and the Telephone Operators in the 1919 Vancouver General Strike," in Barbara K. Lantham and Roberta J. Pazdro, eds., *Not Just Pin Money: Selected Essays on the History of Women's Work in British Columbia* (Victoria: Camosun College, 1984): 279-86.

* Submit your Proposal & Historiography in class *

Feb 22 Week 7: The "Not-So-Roaring Twenties"

- Campbell, Peter. "'Making Socialists': Bill Pritchard, the Socialist Party of Canada, and the Third International." *Labour/Le Travail* 30, (Fall 1992): 42-65.
- Akers, David. "Rebel or Revolutionary: Jack Kavanagh and the Early Years of the Communist Movement in Vancouver, 1920-1925." *Labour/Le Travail*, 30 (1992): 9-44.
- Isitt, Benjamin. "Elusive Unity: The Canadian Labor Party in British Columbia, 1924-28." *BC Studies* (Fall 2009): 33-64.
- Young, Walter D. "Ideology, Personality and the Origin of the CCF in British Columbia." *BC Studies*, 32 (Winter 1976-7), 139-162.
- Optional Reading:* Rodenhizer, John. "The Student Campaign of 1922 to 'Build the University' of British Columbia." *BC Studies*, 4 (Spring 1970): 21-37.

Mar 1 Week 8: The "Dirty Thirties"

- McCallum, Todd. "Vancouver Through the Eyes of a Hobo: Experience, Identity, and Value in the Writing of Canada's Depression-Era Tramps." *Labour/Le Travail*, 59 (Spring 2007): 43-68.
- McCandless, Richard. "Vancouver's 'Red Menace' of 1935: The Waterfront Situation." *BC Studies*, 22 (Summer 1974): 56-70.
- Hak, Gordon. "Red Wages: Communists and the 1934 Vancouver Island Loggers Strike." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, 80, no. 3 (1989): 82-90.

Parnaby, Andrew. "What's Law Got to Do With It? The IWA and the Politics of State Power in British Columbia, 1935-1939." *Labour/Le Travail*, 44 (1999): 9-45.
Document: "Communism in British Columbia" (1935)
FILM: "For 20 Cents a Day"

Part III: Labour and the Left in Modern Times

Mar 8 Week 9: Labour's Cold War

Abella, Irving. "Communism and anti-Communism in the British Columbia Labour Movement: 1940-1948," in David J. Bercuson, ed., *Western Perspectives 1* (Toronto & Montreal: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, n.d.), 88-100.
Laurel Sefton MacDowell, "Paul Robeson in Canada: A Border Story," *Labour/Le Travail*, 51 (Spring 2003), 177-221.
Marcuse, Gary. "Labour's Cold War: The Story of a Union that Was Not Purged." *Labour/Le Travail*, 22 (Fall 1988): 199-210.
Isitt, Benjamin. "Confronting the Cold War: The 1950 Vancouver Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation." *Canadian Historical Review*, 91, no. 3 (September 2010): 465-501.
Document: "The Red Threat to Canada's Pacific Gateway"
FILM: "The Un-Canadians" (excerpt) AUDIO: "Paul Robeson speech at Peace Arch, 1952"

* Submit your Newspaper Review in class *

Mar 15 Week 10: New Militancy and a New Left: Challenging the Postwar Order

Jamieson, Stuart. "Regional Factors in Industrial Conflict: The Case of British Columbia." *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, 28:3 (August 1962): 405-16.
Harding, James. "The New Left in British Columbia." In Dimitrios I. Roussopolous, ed. *The New Left in Canada* (Montreal: Black Rose, c. 1970): 17-40.
Knox, Paul. "Breakaway Unionism in Kitimat." in Knox and Resnick, eds., *Essays in BC Political Economy* (Vancouver: New Star Books, 1974): 42-51.
Resnick, Philip. "The Breakaway Movement in Trail." in Paul Knox and Philip Resnick, *Essays in BC Political Economy* (Vancouver: New Star, 1974): 52-9.
Creese, Gillian. "Gendering Collective Bargaining: From Men's Rights to Women's Issues." *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, 33, no. 4 (1996): 437-456.

Mar 22 Week 11: Social Democracy in Power

Barrett, Dave and William Miller. *Barrett: A Passionate Political Life* (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1995): 61-77.
Petter, Andrew. "Sausage Making in British Columbia's NDP Government: The Creation of the Land Commission Act, August 1972-April 1973." *BC Studies* 65 (Spring 1985): 3-33.
Phillip Resnick. "Social Democracy in Power: The Case of British Columbia." *BC Studies*, 35 (Summer 1977): 3-20.
Carroll, William K. and R.S Ratner. "The NDP Regime in British Columbia: A Post Mortem." In Carroll and Ratner, eds., *Challenges and Perils: Social Democracy in Neoliberal Times* (Halifax: Fernwood, 2005): 105-136.

Mar 29 Week 12: Labour, Indigenous Rights, and the Environment

- Blomley, Nicholas. "'Shut the province down': First Nations blockades in British Columbia, 1984-1995." *BC Studies*, 111 (Autumn 1996): 5-35.
- Zelko, Frank. "Making Greenpeace: The Development of Direct Action Environmentalism in British Columbia." *BC Studies*, 142/143 (Summer/Autumn 2004): 197-239.
- Stefanick, Lorna. "Baby Stumpy and the War in the Woods: Competing Frames of British Columbia Forest." *BC Studies*, 130 (2001): 41-68.
- Salazar, Debra J. and Donald K. Alper. "Reconciling Environmentalism and the Left: Perspectives on Democracy and Social Justice in British Columbia's Environmental Movement." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 35 (September 2002): 527-566.
- Document: "Clayoquot Mass Trials" (Excerpt)

April 5 Week 13: Neo-Liberalism and Recent Labour Struggles

- Bryan D. Palmer. "The Rise and Fall of British Columbia's Solidarity." In Palmer, ed. *The Character of Class Struggle: Essays in Canadian Working Class History, 1850-1985* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1986): 176-200.
- Camfield, David. "Neoliberalism and Working-Class Resistance in British Columbia: The Hospital Employees' Union Struggle, 2002-2004." *Labour/Le Travail*, 57 (Spring 2006): 9-41.
- Isitt, Benjamin and Melissa Moroz. "The Hospital Employees Union Strike and the Privatization of Medicare in British Columbia, Canada." *International Labor and Working-Class History*, 71 (Spring 2007): 91-111.
- Camfield, David. "CUPE's Sympathy Strikes in British Columbia, October 2005: Raising the Bar for Solidarity." *Just Labour*, 11 (Autumn 2007): 35-42.

* Submit your RESEARCH ESSAY by Tuesday, April 12 @ 12 Noon *
History Dept Office (Buchanan Tower, 12th Floor)
* Late assignments will not be accepted *

UBC FACULTY OF ARTS GRADING GUIDELINES

Grading policies should attempt to ensure that all students are assessed fairly in relation to other students in the same class, students in other sections of the same course and students in other courses.

These guidelines establish a framework for the fair treatment of students in Arts courses and provide details of the formal procedure involved in submitting marks, dealing with student appeals and pleas for special treatment, etc. We encourage you to share this material with students.

UBC courses are graded on a percentage basis (or pass/fail – P/F – if a course is so designated). Corresponding letter grades are assigned automatically by the Registrar. (See UBC Calendar, Academic Regulations, Grading Practices).

Percent	Grade	Level of Achievement
90-100	A+	exceptional
85-89	A	exceptional
80-84	A-	exceptional
76-79	B+	competent
72-75	B	competent
68-71	B-	competent
64-67	C+	adequate
60-63	C	adequate
55-59	C-	adequate
50-54	D	adequate
00-49	F *	inadequate

* For students taking courses in other faculties or schools where the passing grade is higher than 50%, all grades below the higher passing grade will be assigned a letter grade of F.

GRADING CRITERIA

The following guidelines offer a broad-brush characterization of the type of work that might be associated with various ranges of grades. The intent here is to encourage general consistency across the faculty rather than to provide precise specifications.

80% to 100% (A- to A+)

Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

68% to 79% (B- to B+)

Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

50% to 67% (D to C+)

Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.

00% to 49% (F)

Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

UBC Information on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/get-study-help/academic-integrity/>

What is academic integrity?

Academic integrity is honest and responsible scholarship. As a university student, you are expected to submit original work and give credit to other peoples' ideas. Maintaining your academic integrity involves:

- Creating and expressing your own ideas in course work
- Acknowledging all sources of information
- Completing assignments independently or acknowledging collaboration
- Accurately reporting results when conducting your own research or in labs
- Honesty during examinations

How does it impact me?

Academic integrity is the foundation of university success. Learning how to express original ideas, cite sources, work independently, and report results accurately and honestly are skills that carry you beyond university to serve you in the workforce. Academic dishonesty not only cheats you of valuable learning experiences, but can result in a failing grade on assignments, a mark on your transcripts, or even expulsion from the university.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is using another person's ideas without giving credit and is considered intellectual theft. If you submit or present the oral or written work of someone else you are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism may be:

Accidental or Unintentional

You may not even know that you're plagiarizing. Make sure you understand the difference between quoting and paraphrasing, as well as the proper way to cite material.

Blatant

This time you're well aware of what you're doing. Purposefully using someone else's ideas or work without proper acknowledgment is plagiarism. This includes turning in borrowed or bought research papers as your own.

Self

It's your own work so you should be able to do what you want with it, right? Wrong. Handing in the same term paper (or substantially the same term paper) for two courses without getting permission from your instructor is plagiarism.

Do professors really check for plagiarism?

YES! Instructors often keep copies of previous assignments for reference. In addition, UBC subscribes to TurnItIn.com, an online service that scans essay and term papers to check for material copied from web sites or purchased from paper mills (such as cheater.com), published works, or previously submitted essays.