ANT 350H1: Anthropology of Work  
University of Toronto, Fall 2011  
Wednesdays 2-4 pm, MP 134

Instructor: Kori Allan  
Email: kori.allan@utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-5 pm or by appointment  
Office: Anthropology Building, Room 348

Course Description  
This course uses ethnographic material to examine the ways in which global forces have changed the nature of work in different sites since World War Two – North America, Europe, and the countries of the South are selectively included.

This course begins (Part I) by examining the emergence of capitalist ‘work’* historically, paying close attention to Industrial and Fordist modes of capitalism before moving on to examine the transition to post-Fordist and neoliberal times in Part II. We will outline the central characteristics of these paradigmatic modes of work, while also questioning their discrete periodization. In Part III of the course we will examine the ways in which globalization and neoliberalism have transformed work in a variety of areas, geographically, and across various sectors of the global economy, through ethnographic case studies. Throughout the course we analyze how economic and political transitions, such as privitization, variously affect regions’ integration into the global economy as well as change the nature of work and workers’ sense of self. For example, we consider how work’s spatial and temporal dimensions affect worker’s ‘personhood’. We further explore how workers are regulated at work in addition to how labor is regulated more broadly through labour market segmentation. We pay particular attention to how labor is disciplined and divided through difference (i.e. cultural, racial, gendered). For example, in Weeks 8-10 we analyze the feminized labor forces in free trade zones and sites of new industrialization, in which stereotypes of women as docile and dexterous make them preferred workers. We also interrogate the feminization of service work and of labour migration, which are crucial to reproducing centers of privilege and power (i.e. in the North). We end the course by contemplating the different forms of labour activism that are emerging in response to the changing nature of work in the global economy.

*Although work and labor have distinctive meanings in theoretical literature, for the purpose of this course we conflate the meanings of the two. We will discuss these distinctions in Weeks 1 & 2.

Readings  
All readings will be made available through Blackboard or through short-term library loan at Robarts Library.

Course Evaluation  
Critical Review of Ethnography on Work 20%, Due: Oct 19  
(List of ethnographies will be provided; 5-6 pages.)  
Participation (blackboard & in-class activities) 10%
Course Schedule & Reading List

PART I: FOUNDATIONS - CAPITALISM, INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND FORDISM

Week 1 – Sept 14: Introduction & Capitalism, Labour and Work
What is work? What is labour? To answer these questions this introductory lecture will discuss classical theorists to provide a conceptual background for the course: Durkheim, Marx, Weber and others.


Recommended:

Week 2 – Sept 21: Industrial Capitalism

Recommended:

Week 3 – Sept 28: Fordism


PART II: POST-FORDISM, NEOLIBERALISM, AND FLEXIBLE ACCUMULATION

Week 4 - Oct 5: Post-Fordism


Recommended:

Week 5 - Oct 12: Neoliberalism
PART III: LABOUR MARKETS & ETHNOGRAPHIC CASE STUDIES

**Week 6 – Oct 19: The Character and Culture of New Capitalism & Finance in the ‘New Economy’**
*Critical Ethnography Review Due*


Recommended:


**Week 7 – Oct 26: Disciplining and Gendering Industrial Labour in the Global South**


**Week 8 - Nov 2: The Feminization of the Global Service Economy I: The “High Tech” Global Assembly Line**


**Week 9 – Nov 9: The Feminization of the Global Service Economy II: Intimate Work**

**Week 10 – Nov 16: Film Screening**
*The Take* (2004), a film by Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein

***You will be tested on this film, so be sure to take notes.***

**Week 11 – Nov 23: Privatization and Post-Socialism**

**Week 12 – Nov 30: ‘New’ Labour Activism**
*Final Essay Due*


**Course Requirements**

(1) **Critical Ethnography Review (20%)**: Write a 5-6 page critical review of an ethnography from the list provided. These books will be on short-term reserve at Robarts Library. You may also propose to review an ethnography of work not included in the list, but I must approve this book no later than October 5, 2011. A brief summary of the book should be no more than one-third of the paper. The summary should consist of a discussion of the author’s thesis and major arguments. The critical review should consider the following questions: How effectively is the thesis proven? What type of evidence does the author use? If arguments or perspectives were missing, why do you think this might be? *(See Assignment Handout on Blackboard)* *Due: October 19, 2011*

(2) **Final Research Essay (30%)**: You are required to write a 10-12 page research essay. A list of topics will be provided. Alternatively you can propose your own topic, but it must be approved no later than November 2, 2011. *(See Assignment Handout on Blackboard). * Due November 30, 2011*
(3) Final Exam (40%): There will be a final exam in the December exam period. The exam will be cumulative, meaning the exam questions will be based on material from the entire semester. (More details to follow on Blackboard.)

(4) Participation Marks (10%): Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Your participation mark will be based on a number of activities that occur in-class in addition to attendance. Participation in the class discussion board on blackboard will also be taken into account.

Submission of Assignments
A hard copy of the essay assignments are required and MUST be handed in during class or during my office hours on the day it is due. It is considered late after 5 pm on Wednesdays. If you hand an assignment in late, you must drop a hard copy off in the anthropology drop-box in addition to submitting it to turnitin.com on the same day. This drop box is checked every day at 8:30 am and your paper will be stamped. The drop-box is located on the second floor of the anthropology building. Since the anthropology building is locked at night, you are advised to drop it off during regular business hours.

All assignments must first be submitted electronically to www.turnitin.com (before they are submitted in hard copy form) in order to be scanned for plagiarism. Turnitin.com reviews course essays for textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. Should you not wish to submit an electronic version of your assignment to Turnitin.com, you must consult with me well in advance of the due date to make alternative arrangements.

Late Penalties
Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Assignments will be considered late if a hard copy is not submitted on the same day you submit it to Turnitin.com. However, if you submit your assignment on Saturday or Sunday to Turnitin.com, you may hand in your hard copy no later than Monday.

Email Policy
You can expect a response within 48 hours (although I will usually respond within 24 hours). If you do not receive a reply within 48 hours, please resend the email, as I likely did not receive it. The exception is over weekends. You can expect a response within 72 hours over weekends. I will only respond to emails sent from you UTORmail email account.

Please use email judiciously. Please make sure you consult the course syllabus and the course website before submitting inquiries by email. Email should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with the instructor during office hours. Ideas are best discussed in person during office hours or by appointment.

Lecture Notes
I will post my Powerpoint lecture slides on Blackboard. They are meant to act as an outline for the lectures. I will not be providing detailed lecture notes. Accordingly, it is imperative that you attend lectures on a regular basis and take notes during class. You are solely responsible for familiarizing yourself with the content of all lecture materials; I will not email copies of Powerpoint slides or lecture notes to students. If you miss a lecture, you must contact a fellow classmate to obtain copies of the notes.

Blackboard
Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for class announcements, a minimum of once a week.

Accessibility
The University of Toronto offers Accessibility Services (http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/). Students who require accommodation for documented issues should contact them as early in the term as possible.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct
The University expects your work to be done independently. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense and will in all cases be dealt with according to the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). Please refer to the handouts Academic Misconduct and How Not to Plagiarize, available on Blackboard.