

Winter 2012 Video Conference Courses

Economic Sovereignty and the Battle for Control over Canada's Resources

The two session course explores Canadian economic sovereignty both historically and today. The first session presented by Wayne Lewchuk of McMaster School of Labour Studies will examine the decisions over the last 150 years that shaped the degree of economic sovereignty today and how these forces have played out in a contemporary manufacturing sector example: US Steel's purchase of STELCO in Hamilton. The second session of this course will broaden the analysis to explore Canadian sovereignty over natural resources with a focus on control over freshwater rights. Growing demand for freshwater in the United States has resulted in pressure to open up Canadian water supplies to service American water needs. The Council of Canadians has stated that control over our freshwater resources is central to our national wellbeing and must be protected by law for the common good, not for individual profit. A consensus is building that control over this important resource is the next frontier in the battle over control of Canadian resources. **Course No. 867A, Unit: 2**

Dates: February 6 & 27

Financial Update with Jim Stanford: The Eurozone Economic Crisis and the Impact on Workers and the Canadian Economy (New Course)

The current financial crisis has been largely precipitated by debt crises in states belonging to the Eurozone. Beginning with debt issues in Ireland, Portugal and Greece, instability has recently spread to Europe's larger and more powerful economies of Spain, Italy and many analysts fear perhaps even Germany. What is the basis of the European financial crisis? How should the Canadian government respond to the European crisis? How do events in Europe impact our economy and our jobs? Does the current global financial crisis present an opportunity to consider alternative models of global financial management? Join Jim Stanford for this one session course that will explore these questions and provide students with a better understanding of the causes and possible implications of what is taking place in the global economy. **Course No. 864A, Unit: 1**

Date: February 13

Fragile Rights: The Erosion of Canadian Civil Liberties

Civil liberties are fundamental rights and freedoms that many of us take for granted and expect are protected under Canadian law. These rights include freedom of expression, assembly, peaceful protest, and due process. The suspension of these rights during recent demonstrations in Toronto against the G8 and G20 summits underscores the fragility of these rights. The first session of this two session course will be presented by a member of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association who will discuss the evolution of these rights and the legislative measures in place to protect them. A focus of this session will be a discussion of the growing tendency of Canadian governments to suspend these rights justified on the basis of the public interest. The second session of this course will feature Larry Savage of Brock University who will discuss Canadian labour rights and the increasing reliance of Canadian governments to intervene in the collective bargaining process to suspend these legislated rights. Governments argue that current economic conditions justify this intervention and the suspension of labour rights while others believe current economic conditions are being exploited by governments who are intent on rolling back rights. **Course No. 868A, Unit: 2**

Dates: March 12 & 19

Understanding the Occupy Movement

In 2011 hundreds of protesters in almost 100 cities spread across 80 countries occupied and camped in public spaces in a demonstration aimed at resolving economic and social inequality. The Occupy Movement was launched with a September 2011 demonstration against Wall Street in New York and quickly spread around the globe including an encampment in Toronto in October. This one session course will explore the origins of the Occupy Movement including a discussion of the issues that motivated it, movement goals, leadership structure, tactics, and the next steps. This course will feature Lana Goldberg, an activist who was heavily involved in the Occupy Toronto encampment at St James Park. She was one of 5 Occupy activists who were represented in the movement's court challenge to the City of Toronto's eviction of occupiers from St James Park. **Course No. 865A, Unit: 1**

Date: Monday March 26