A brief note on this syllabus for “Teaching Film and Media Against the Global Right” readers... Like many departments, Film Studies at Concordia University offers a “professionalization” seminar to PhD students. While inviting participants to explore aspects of academic work – such as teaching, course design and conference presentation – this class refuses to pretend that competence in these skills will necessarily lead to a tenure-track job. Instead, we investigate the forceful restructuring of academia according to neoliberal principles of competition and precarity and imagine ways to challenge these impositions through critical and communal praxis.

**PhD Pro-Seminar Part Two: Academic Labour**

This section of the course situates higher education within broader global trends in cognitive labour, the marketization of knowledge, competition and product differentiation, and policy decisions around public provision. It will scrutinize dimensions of academic work such as teaching, grant writing and conference presentation with an eye not simply to developing the requisite skills for entering these domains, but also for critiquing their formations. As such, the course will engage with the literature on questions of “immaterial” and casualized labour, the outsourcing and offshoring of academic work, free education models, and radical pedagogy.

**Course Commitments**

**Moodle Posts (pass/fail):**
Keeping up-to-date with your reading is an essential requirement for this class. You must contribute at least eight of the possible ten reading responses to the moodle forum in order to pass this course. Please do not write a summary of the readings. Instead, you are requested to place these often generically diverse texts in dialogue with each other, propose topics that you would like to discuss further in class, and highlight any ideas that you don’t fully grasp so we can helpfully work through them as a team. The ultimate aim of this exercise is to establish a set of subjects and questions that interest you as a group. The deadline for uploading your responses is midnight on the Tuesday before the related class.

**Conference Presentation (20%):**
Prior to “conference season”, this assignment gives you the opportunity to dummy run a presentation. Your talk must be strictly timed to 15-20 minutes, after which you will be cut off. You will be assessed on the appropriateness of content for the chosen conference milieu, your presentation style (including your use of technology) and how you handle follow up questions. Deadline: in class on the 16th of March.

**Community Research Project (40%):**
For this assignment, the entire group will conduct a single research project that aims to engage with a particular community or cause around issues covered during this course. The objective is to create an environment for mutual learning and to explore practical applications that benefit the group or campaign with which you have elected to align. CURE (the Community-University Research Exchange) will be visiting us in class to offer suggestions and guidance. Deadline: midnight on the 16th of April.
Syllabus Design (40%):
In pairs, design an undergraduate-level Film Studies course on a topic of your choosing. Make sure your syllabus follows an acceptable format and includes: a description of the aims of the course; clear weekly topics, readings and screenings; and appropriate assignments. Deadline: midnight on the 23rd of April.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

PART ONE: ACADEMIC LABOUR

WEEK ONE: Theorizing (Academic) Labour

Readings:


WEEK TWO: The Precarious Academic

Readings:


WEEK THREE: The Competitive Self

Readings:


PART TWO: THE UNIVERSITY AS EMPLOYER

WEEK FOUR: Privatizing Education

Readings:

- Anonymous. “Visions of the New University and a Brief List of Impossible Demands.” Originally published at: http://zinelibrary.info/vision-new-university-brief-list-impossible-demands. NB this is reading is NOT available via the electronic reserves; please find it here instead: https://www.dropbox.com/s/262aq6b98wltu8t/anonymous%20visions%20of%20the%20new%20university.pdf?dl=0

WEEK FIVE: The Global University

Readings:


READING WEEK: NO CLASS

WEEK SEVEN: The Migrant Scholar

Readings:


WEEK EIGHT: Para-Academia

Readings:


WEEK NINE: Conference Paper Presentations

PART THREE: PEDAGOGICAL LABOUR

WEEK TEN: Research and the Community

Readings:


WEEK ELEVEN: Radical Pedagogy

Readings:


WEEK TWELVE: Ordering Knowledge: Curricula and Syllabi

Readings:


WEEK THIRTEEN: Presentation of Syllabi and Tutorial Time to Discuss Assignments

BOOKS THAT MAY BE USEFUL FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

- Dispatches From the Ruins: Documents and Analyses From University Struggles, Experiments in Self-Education. 1,000 Little Hammers, 2011.


