

SOCI 355¹

The Corporation, Capitalism, and Globalization

Instructor: Dr. Bill Carroll, wcarroll@uvic.ca

Course Description:

This course takes a critical approach to the sociological analysis of corporations, capitalism and globalization. We will work through three recent texts plus a few articles and chapters, all of which view large corporations as centres of power that generate deep disparities within and among nation-states and communities. The agency of corporations is largely responsible for the deepening climate crisis. Corporate power does not go unchallenged; indeed, in recent years grassroots opposition to the rule of transnational capital has burgeoned. In the final section of the course, we take up alternatives to the rule of corporate capital.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

Students will gain a good rudimentary understanding of the political economy and sociology of corporate capitalism, in Canada and globally. Assignments and activities will support the development of oral and written communication skills and group work, with extensive use of breakout group discussions.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

None beyond standard pre/co-requisites for other 300-level Sociology courses.

Topics May Include:

Realities of capitalism and the myth of TINA (There Is No Alternative)
How corporate power works: its economic, political and cultural modalities
The struggle between capitalism and community
Global capitalism and the imperial mode of living
Corporations, capitalism and climate crisis
Platform capitalism (capitalism and the internet)
Alternatives

Required Resources May Include:

Carroll, W.K. and J.P. Sapinski (2018) *Organizing the 1%: How Corporate Power Works*. Halifax: Fernwood.

Lebowitz, Michael A. (2020) *Between Capitalism and Community*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Brand, Ulrich and Markus Wissen (2021) *The Imperial Mode of Living: Everyday Life and the Ecological Crisis of Capitalism*. London: Verso

Other resources will be available on Brightspace.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.