**McMaster University Labour Studies Program**

# LABOUR STUDIES 1AO3

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CANADIAN LABOUR MOVEMENT**

## First Assignment

**Purpose –** The goal of the assignment is to help students develop the skills required to understand the scholarly writing on labour. For this assignment, the amount of material students are required to handle is relatively small, but what is required is that students show a command of the material. The assignment also challenges students to write efficiently, covering a number of issues in a small amount of space.

**Assignment –** Write a report on one of the first three articles in your course pack. Two to three pages of the report should be devoted to answering **one** of the following questions:

For Marjorie Griffin-Cohen, “The Decline of Women in Canadian Dairying”:

* Why did gender roles in the dairy industry change over time?

For Bettina Bradbury, “Gender At Work At Home: Family Decisions, the Labour Market, and Girls’ Contributions to the Family Economy”:

* Bradbury argues that the “context, timing and contours of boys’ and girls’ participation in wage labour were different.” Just what were the differences and what factors created these differences?

For David Goutor, “Constructing the Great Menace”:

* Goutor argues that the most common explanations of labour leaders’ hostility to Asian immigration are fears about competition in the job market and “the pervasiveness of anti-Asian racism” in Canada. According to Goutor’s article, what do these explanations miss?

**In addition,** approximately one page of the report should be devoted to discussing whether you were convinced by the author’s argument. This discussion **may** address **any** of the following:

* Is the author effective in explaining and developing the key arguments?
* Did the author have enough evidence to support the key claims?

**Length: 3 to 4 pages (double-spaced, with a regular font).**

**Citations – are required; consult your TA for guidelines on citation.**

**Due Date: October 19 in lecture**