

STFXAUT UNIONIVERSITY

COURSE CATALOGUE
12-15 February 2013



"X is called a UNIversity because it has a UNIon in it." ~Zya, age 4

The STFXAUT Unionversity is a free-of-charge, free-spirited, and free-form entity that is committed to offering teach-ins on a variety of subjects related to STFXAUT strike and labour negotiations. Professors and VPs of the Unionversity are members of the STFXAUT, but we do not represent any official position of the Executive or Bargaining Team of the STFXAUT, nor do we share the same views on the current labour situation; what unites us instead is that we are all striking workers committed to a fairly negotiated and reasonable contract, and who want to help our students understand the current strike in its local, national, and global contexts.

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WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

13h00-14h30

People's Place Library, Meeting Room

Nancy Forestell and Rachel Hurst

Do you have any of the following questions?

- Why are AUT members able to go out on strike, since it has a negative impact on students?
- What is so bad about final offer arbitration – it seems like a way to objectively pick and choose between the demands of the two sides? Why is the AUT not accepting that as an option at this point?
- How can students get their voices heard?

If you are asking any of these questions, this is the teach-in for you! In the first part of this teach-in session, students will receive an introduction to the collective bargaining process and how it works, the significance of being able to strike, and binding arbitration. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions. The second part of this teach-in session will be a hands-on workshop, in which students (assisted by facilitators) will begin working on their individual or collective responses. We will discuss a range of responses, including letter writing, petitions, street theatre, support or study group organization, costumes, chant-writing, sign-making, etc. and get started on these responses – so bring the supplies that you need! If you have been thinking about doing something, but haven't been sure where to start and/or want others to join in with you, this is the place for you.

ABOUT THE FACILITATORS

Nancy Forestell is a scholar activist who has taught at St.F.X. for nineteen years and is cross-appointed to the Department of History, and the Women's and Gender Studies Program. A recipient of both the St.F.X. Community Outreach Award and Outstanding Teaching Award, Dr. Forestell has specific expertise in feminist history and labour and working-class history. She works with students on many committees at the university, including Senate, the Equity Advisory Committee, the "Unsilence the Violence" partnership between STFX, Status of Women Canada, and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, as well as the Women's and Gender Studies Student Society.

Rachel Hurst is a professor in the Women's and Gender Studies programme at StFX, and a member of the STFXAUT, which is currently entering its third week of a legal strike. She holds a PhD in Women's Studies from York University and studies cosmetic surgery, skin, colonial photography, and psychoanalytic theory. She is an advisor to LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgendered, Queer and Questioning) students at StFX, a position that is not compensated financially or otherwise, but she does it anyways because students are fabulous and it is fun to work with the other advisors (Aboriginal, Black, and International) and their respective student groups. She also works alongside students in the Women's and Gender Studies Student Society and X-Pride, as well as on a whole slew of other committees and groups at StFX: the Equity Advisory Committee, the University Senate and the Senate Steering Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, "Unsilence the Violence," and the Positive Spaces training programme. Her extracurricular interests include swimming, fun, costumes, skating, and hot pink. She is the VP - Glitter and Unicorn Experience at the STFXAUT Unioniversity.

PROTEST REFERENCE DESK: THE LIBRARIAN IS IN!

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

14h00-17h00

Piper's Pub

Lise Brin

A Protest Reference Desk is being set up to locate reliable, authoritative online answers to your questions regarding strikes, union rights, and specific to the StFXAUT strike. Questions to be answered could include: Do students lose their semester after a protracted university strike? What is collective bargaining? Why is arbitration being refused by the AUT? What rights do unions have in Nova Scotia? Why are the university administration's and the union's dollar figures so different? The questions and answers collected will be used to build the Protest Reference Blog, a collection of reliable information available to all.

You can participate in person or virtually by doing any of the following:

- Ask questions;
- Supply links to useful, open, authoritative sources of information;
- Bring your laptop; help find answers and compile them on the Protest Reference Blog!

Lise Brin has been a librarian at StFX since 2008, in a position enigmatically titled 'Emerging Services Librarian.' Prior to acquiring her information management credentials (Master of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie U., 2008), Lise worked in a slew of roles in documentary film and television production, then spent several years as an arts administrator working at film festivals. Like most librarians she knows, Lise is a true information seeker who can't give up on a question once it's been posed, who strongly believes that "information wants to be free," and who regularly researches friends' Facebook musings and supplies them with links to authoritative online information. Lise dreams of being a contributor to Snopes.

LOVE IS IN THE FLAIR - CREATIVE DISSENT, AND HOW UNIONS AND OTHER SOCIAL MOVEMENTS COME UP WITH NEW WAYS OF SEEING (AND BEING IN) THE WORLD

Thursday, February 14, 2013

14h00-15h30

St. James United Church, Auditorium (out back)

Jon Langdon and Angela Weaver

Dissent is more than saying “no”, it's believing in an alternative “yes”; the heart of any union or social movement struggle is an alternative story trying to break its way out; creativity, or the creation of new ways of answering the same questions, is often the tinder box that reveals this alternative story; for instance, when protesters put flowers in the barrels of guns, it both symbolized and ignited the message of peace of the 60s anti-war protests. This session will share some experiences of creative dissent in the current AUT struggle, and will invite participants to work together to come up with and enact their own delicious dissent.

A special guest, with a flair for creatively adding to the AUT's struggle will also be on hand to add her own Valentine's message...

ABOUT THE FACILITATORS

Jon Langdon (VP of human percussivity) has been known to start classes with a start-stop dramatic reenactment of colonialism, to suggest the best way to learn about community activism is by walking, and to always have time to connect with students (even if it is while dropping off his daughter at swim class). He has trouble defining where teaching ends and living begins (which makes being on strike pretty dang weird!!!). Oh, and he has been working with/in social movement struggles (here and in Africa) for so long he can't actually figure out when he started (and he really thought about it for a long time, and asked his mom). His Valentine's gift to himself is hanging with the students he has been missing for weeks.

Angela Weaver is a clinical psychologist and assistant professor in the psychology department. Her clinical work is with children with neurodevelopmental disorders and her academic research focuses on sexuality. This may make her well suited for dissent as she likes to advocate for those with less power and she regularly talks about stuff people don't usually talk about. She tends to supervise more thesis students than most members of her department and likes to drag them to conferences and publish papers with them. She is also a Positive Spaces Trainer.

FACE OFF: FIRST THE NHL LOCKOUT, THEN THE STFXAUT STRIKE...SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Friday, February 15, 2013

14h00-15h30

Piper's Pub

Clare Fawcett and Charlene Weaving

First the NHL players then the StFX profs! What's a student to do?

Work stoppages get in the way of your life. The NHL was bad enough, but now your profs are on the picket line. HNIC is only on Saturday night, and you are rapidly getting bored. This teach-in will contrast the 2012 NHL lockout and the 2013 StFXAUT strike.

These job actions differ in significant ways. First, one was a lockout and the other is a strike. Second, the issues on the table are dissimilar since elite athletes make a lot more money than even the highest paid profs (there are no Crosby multi-million dollar contracts at X!) Many StFXAUT members are not profs but rather poorly paid contract academic workers. Finally, the people affected are poles apart. Students **need** an education, while NHL fans—well, they can always watch football or ping pong instead of hockey! There is also a huge difference in terms of invested tuition dollars versus season tickets that is important to explore.

So join us to learn more about and discuss the work actions that most affect your life. Oh yeah. Bring a friend.

Clare Fawcett is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology. She's been at StFX since 1991 and has taught courses in a variety of areas most recently in medical anthropology, the anthropology of gender, the anthropology of tourism and the anthropology of HIV/AIDS. She is a newby to strike actions never having taken part in a strike before. As a reflexive anthropologist, she has been participating and observing the StFXAUT strike over the past two weeks and would like to talk to students about how this strike compares to other work actions, such as the NHL Lockout.

Charlene Weaving is an Associate Professor in the Human Kinetics Department and has been at St FX for 8 years. In 2007 she won the Outstanding Teaching Award for the Faculty of Science. Charlene was the Immersion Service Learning faculty leader in 2008 and travelled with students to Grenada. She currently serves as the Academic Advisor for the varsity women's rugby team. Charlene and Clare became friends over shared interests in outdoor sports and figured it would be unique to discuss the strike/ unions from a sport-sociocultural perspective.

Want to be a prof or VP at STFXAUT Unioniversity?

Email rachel_hurst@hotmail.com, and you're in!

Include the following: a title for your session, a description of the session, a bio for the presenter(s), an OFF-CAMPUS location, a time and a date (that does not conflict with currently scheduled sessions). Suggestions for off-campus locations of sessions are the People's Place library, the St. James United Church auditorium, Piper's Pub, or the Prissy Pig - however, it is the responsibility of the professor to arrange the off-campus space for the session.

Want to do a teach-in but aren't sure what to talk about? Sessions that we would love to include in the programme are the university budget, university funding in Canada, the history and outcomes of university strikes in Canada, picket line 101.....