

Suggested Documentaries and Popular Films

Work and Labour in Canada: Critical Issues, 3rd Edition

By Andrew Jackson and Mark P. Thomas

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Suggested Documentaries and Popular Films

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Documentaries			
Title	Topic	Brief Synopsis	For More Information
<i>13th</i> (2016)	Modern slave labour	Netflix documentary that connects the modern prison industrial system to slavery	www.netflix.com/ca/title/80091741
<i>After I Pick the Fruit</i> (2011)	Migrant labour, seasonal work	Follows the everyday challenges of immigrant farm workers in New York state	www.imdb.com/title/tt2124734/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl
<i>American Dream</i> (1990)	Unions	Follows a workers' strike in Austin, Minnesota	www.imdb.com/title/tt0099028/?ref_=tt_rec_tt
<i>As Friend and Foe</i> (1980)	Canadian labour	National Film Board film detailing the relationship between workers and the Canadian government	www.youtube.com/watch?v=9K9HZ_40H0M
<i>Bombay Calling</i> (2006)	Globalization	Follows the lives of call center workers in India	www.nfb.ca/distribution/film/bombay_calling
<i>Boomer Revolution</i> (2013)	Retirement	Examines the baby boomer generation and touches on what today's retirement looks like	www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/boomer-revolution
<i>Borderless: The Lives of Undocumented Workers</i> (2006)	Migrant labour, undocumented labour	Follows the story of undocumented workers in Canada and America as they try to survive low-wage work and the difficulties of migration	www.films.com/id/12901
<i>China Blue</i> (2005)	Globalization	Uncovers the inner workings of a denim factory in China	www.pbs.org/independentlens/chinablue/index.html
<i>Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class</i> (2005)	Media, labour, and class relations	Documents how the media portrays the working class in American television	www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QSIyq7tSYs&feature=youtu.be
<i>Clockwork</i> (1982)	History of American labour	Details workers' movements and rights, the evolution of the American workplace, and capitalism in America	www.kanopystreaming.com/product/clockwork
<i>The Corporation</i> (2003)	Globalization	Explores the concept of the corporation from recent history up to 2003	www.thecorporation.com/
<i>Courage</i> (2011)	Working poor	Set in Toronto, the film follows members of Ontario's working poor	www.nfb.ca/film/courage
<i>A Decent Factory</i> (2004)	Globalization	Nokia sends a team to examine conditions at a Chinese factory that supplies parts to the company	icarusfilms.com/new2005/dec.html

<i>The Decline of Labour Unions in the US (2011)</i>	American labour movement, unions	Documentary from Al Jazeera's <i>Fault Lines</i> that reports on contemporary labour issues and challenges faced by unions in the United States	www.aljazeera.com/programmes/faultlines/2011/12/2011121714442663916.html
<i>Exotica, Erotica, Etc. (2015)</i>	Black market labour	Explores the complex relationships between sailors and sex workers in Greece	m.imdb.com/title/tt4517578/
<i>Fast Food Women (1992)</i>	Working poor	Follows women struggling to support their families in the service economy	www.pbs.org/pov/fastfoodwomen/
<i>Final Offer (1985)</i>	Unions	Filmed record of the 1984 contract negotiations between United Auto Workers and General Motors Corporation	www.nfb.ca/film/final_offer
<i>For Man Must Work or the End of Work (2000)</i>	Changing workforce in Canada	Reflection on the changing reality of work and how new technologies can influence trends	www.nfb.ca/film/for_man_must_work
<i>The Future of Work (2016)</i>	Technology, labour	Four-part documentary exploring the possible futures of labour	thefutureofwork.eu/
<i>The Future of Work and Death (2016)</i>	Technology, labour	Film exploring the impacts of technology on two supposed certainties of human life	www.imdb.com/title/tt5142784/
<i>Generation Jobless (2013)</i>	Changing workforce in Canada	Examines why many young Canadians are overeducated and underemployed	www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/generation-jobless
<i>Harlan County USA (1976)</i>	Unions, worker equality	Examines the Brookside Strike, the efforts of 180 coal miners to start a union	www.imdb.com/title/tt0074605/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1
<i>The Harvest: La Cosecha (2013)</i>	Migrant labour	Explores migrant child labour in the agriculture industry	www.imdb.com/title/tt1981703/
<i>H2 Worker (1990)</i>	Migrant labour	Follows the lives of Caribbean workers in the sugar cane industry in Florida	www.docurama.com/docurama/h-2-worker/
<i>Inside Your Threads (2004)</i>	Sweatshops	Documentary detailing the use of sweatshops in the clothing industry	vimeo.com/63357823
<i>Inequality for All (2013)</i>	Economic gap	Follows former US Labour Secretary Robert Reich on an awareness campaign about the gap between rich and poor	www.imdb.com/title/tt2215151/?ref_=tt_rec_tti
<i>Last Train Home (2009)</i>	Migrant labour	Documents Chinese workers returning home to visit their families for the holidays in the largest human migration on earth	www.eyesteelfilm.com/lasttrainhome

<i>The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant</i> (2009)	Economic crisis, unemployment,	Tracks the final days of a General Motors plant in Moraine, Ohio	www.imdb.com/title/tt1487120/
<i>Life and Debt</i> (2001)	Globalization, debt	Examines the impact of globalization policies on developing countries	www.lifeanddebt.org/
<i>Live Nude Girls Unite!</i> (2000)	Women's labour, labour rights, and unions	Examines the efforts of San Francisco peep show dancers to unionize	www.imdb.com/title/tt0264802/
<i>Made in LA</i> (2007)	Unions, immigration	Follows three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops as they strive to win basic labour protections	www.madeinla.com/
<i>Manufactured Landscapes</i> (2006)	Globalization	Observes landscape changes due to industrial work and manufacturing	www.imdb.com/title/tt0832903/?ref_=fn_al_tt_
<i>Mardi Gras: Made in China</i> (2005)	Globalization	Examines the globalization of culture and labour	www.imdb.com/title/tt0436569/
<i>Maquilapolis: City of Factories</i> (2006)	Globalization	Examines the lives of factory workers in multinational-owned factories in Mexico	www.maquilapolis.com/project_eng.htm
<i>Migrant Dreams</i> (2016)	Migrant labour	Documentary exploring resistance among workers in Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program	www.migrantdreams.ca/
<i>Nalini by Day, Nancy by Night</i> (2005)	Globalization, outsourcing	Explores the outsourcing of American jobs to India	www.imdb.com/title/tt0491074/
<i>Requiem for the American Dream</i> (2015)	Globalization, economic gap	Discourse with Noam Chomsky about inequality and the concentration of power in the hands of America's elite	www.imdb.com/title/tt3270538/
<i>The Retirement Gamble</i> (2013)	Retirement	Explores the retirement system in America—what is it costing workers and retirees, and what are they getting in return?	www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/retirement-gamble/
<i>Roger and Me</i> (1989)	Unemployment	Michael Moore documentary about the downsizing of the General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan	www.imdb.com/title/tt0098213/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1
<i>Slavery: A 21st Century</i>	Modern slave labour	Four-part Al Jazeera documentary about different industries around the world that	topdocumentaryfilms.com/slavery-21st-century-

<i>Evil (2011)</i>		use modern slave labour	evil/
<i>Take It from Me (2001)</i>	Welfare	Follows several women and their families before transitioning off of welfare	www.pbs.org/pov/takeitfromme/
<i>The Take (2004)</i>	Unions, worker equality	Follows the workers' struggle in Buenos Aires and its role in the political sphere	www.thetake.org/index.cfm?page_name=synopsis
<i>Taking the Heat: the First Women Firefighters of New York City (1993)</i>	Women, equality in the workplace	Tells the story of a small group of women who wanted to be firefighters and explores the isolation, violence, and abuse they endured	www.pbs.org/independentlens/takingtheheat/index.html
<i>Toxic Labels: The Dark Side of Outsourcing (2012)</i>	Globalization, sweatshops, child labour, and slavery	Explores the use of unethical labour practices by big brand-name retail companies, and how the outsourcing of manufacturing oppresses workers	www.films.com/ecTitleDetail.aspx?TitleID=29207
<i>Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Price (2005)</i>	Workers' rights, minimum wage	Documentary exploring the poor labour practices of retail giant Wal-Mart	www.imdb.com/title/tt0473107/
<i>Working Like Crazy (1999)</i>	Labour, mental health	Details the lives of former mental health patients as they try to support themselves	www2.nfb.ca/boutique/XNFBibeCCtpItmDspRte.jsp?formatid=33944&lr_ecode=collection&minisite=10002&respid=22372

Critical Thinking Questions

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Chapter 1: The World of Work in the 21st Century

1. What dimensions of a job are most important to you?
2. To what extent and in what ways do you think access to a good job is influenced by social location including age, gender, race, disability, and citizenship status?
3. How do you think the employment prospects of young adults today compare to those of previous generations?
4. How much influence do you think governments and unions have in shaping the quality of jobs in a highly competitive global economy?
5. In what ways can work be understood as a “social problem”?

Chapter 2: Work, Wages, and Living Standards in Canada

1. Are you surprised at the level of earnings inequality and the incidence of low paid and precarious work? Why or why not?
2. How aware and concerned do you think people are of rising income inequality? Do you think income inequality and poverty should be issues of greater public concern? Why or why not?
3. What are the factors that contribute to income inequality? To what extent do you think growing inequality is inevitable?
4. What kinds of public policies might make a difference in reducing inequality and improving the quality of jobs?
5. Beyond public policy, what can be done to reduce inequality and improve the quality of jobs?

Chapter 3: Education, Training, and Lifelong Learning: Tensions and Contradictions

1. Do you think the emphasized need for education and skills to succeed in the job market is overblown or an accurate reflection of what it takes to find and keep a good job today?
2. How do you think the needs and interests of employers and workers differ when it comes to how much and what kind of on-the-job training should be provided?

[END OF SAMPLE]