**Radical Lawyering: Legal Work in Working-Class Struggle**

Course Number: 284.43

Spring 2024

Instructor: [Jay Kim](https://ebclc.org/about-us/who-we-are/jay-kim/)

Email address: [jayjikim@berkeley.edu](mailto:jayjikim@berkeley.edu)

Guest Lecturer: [Thomas Mariadason](https://politicaleducation.org/collective-staff/)

Email address: [thomas@politicaleducation.org](mailto:thomas@politicaleducation.org)

**Meeting Times and Location**

This course meets on Thursdays, from 3:35pm to 5:25pm, from January 11 to February 22, 2024.  
  
Location: Room 111

Office Hours: Fridays, from 2pm to 3pm, via [Zoom](https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/91440368174?pwd=V3Q5eGJlWExJRWVGaFpCZlc0SWU1UT09). If you are unable to attend office hours, please email me directly to schedule another time to meet.

## Welcome and Course Description

Welcome to Radical Lawyering: Legal Work in Working-Class Struggle. Over the next seven weeks, we will assess how legal workers develop both theory & praxis for lawyering in service of movements for transformative change. We will examine the core analysis upon which anti-capitalist, working-class movements are based and interrogate the limits that lawyers in social justice movements encounter when engaging that analysis in legal work that can be largely structurally determined. Through a combination of readings, guest lectures, and discussions, we will develop a deeper understanding of the movement landscape. We will also learn how legal workers adapt legal strategies to serve movement objectives and develop creative interventions beyond their prescribed legal tools to become genuine protagonists of transformative change.

## Course Materials

All required reading and viewing materials are hyperlinked to this syllabus.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course sets out to achieve the following Berkeley Law learning outcomes:

* Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system;
* Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession;
* Ability to critically assess laws and legal institutions, including the ways in which they shape and are shaped by racism and other forms of systemic inequality; and
* Using the law to solve real-world problems and to create a more just society.

This course sets out to achieve the following course-specific learning outcomes:

* Be able to discuss specific aspects of radical lawyering in theory and practice; and
* Be able to analyze the role of legal workers in supporting working class movements and apply that analysis to various movements.

## Participation and Assignments Students are expected to complete any required readings and to actively participate in class discussions. In addition, students will submit four 2-page (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins) written reflection papers throughout the seven weeks applying the learnings from the class to a specific current working-class movement. The written reflection papers should be uploaded to bCourses. Guiding questions for the written reflection papers:

## What were the most important takeaways from this week’s guest lecture and readings?

## What are the ways in which the guest lecture and readings discussed building power among working class communities?

## What are some questions that were raised for you when reflecting on the guest lecture and readings?

## In what ways, if any, did the guest lecture and readings change your understanding of the topic?

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes in person. If you are sick, quarantining per campus policy, or unable to attend class for any other reason, please provide as much notice as possible via email. If you miss a class that requires a written reflection paper, you will still need to submit a reflection paper based on the assigned readings and discussion questions prior to the following week’s class.

**Grading/Evaluation**Factors that will be considered in determining grades include in-class participation and four reflection papers.

**Course Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings + Assignments** |
| January 11 | Introduction + key principles of radical lawyering | None |
| January 18 | Developing a strong politic to analyze legal work in support of working-class movements | **Required viewing + reading:**  [Video:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9naVsT7qOU)[[“Racial Capitalism with Robin DG Kelley”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9naVsT7qOU)](https://zoom.us/rec/play/ZDXFFZCxErZHtILeYVw9tWDy_PZDEzcv_TPd2S7HxH5jpqX0NRj51vusfoFI5fOETWJEK53n9kiWYqpz.nY_B78hFcOB_vXsh?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Frecording%2Fshare%2F7L-J8bd56TmHTxceNq5-4FG0oPAmdjTemXfmmFOAF8WwIumekTziMw)[(minutes 7:28 to 29:39)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9naVsT7qOU)    [[Integrating a Racial Capitalism Framework into First-Year Contracts: A Pathway to Anti-Capitalist Lawyering](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9naVsT7qOU)](https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1923&context=jcred)[by Chaumtoli Huq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9naVsT7qOU) |
| January 25 | Radical lawyering in practice: environmental justice | **Required reading:**  [Environmental and Housing Justice Platform: Advancing a Vision for Healthy, Accessible, and Affordable Housing for All](https://calgreenzones.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CEJA_GZ-EHJP-Full-Platform-Final.pdf)  **Assignment due February 1:**   2-page written reflection based on January 25 class lecture and readings. |
| February 1 | Radical lawyering in practice: defunding the police | **Required readings:**   [‘Defund the Police’: What it Means and How Bay Area Cities Are Responding](https://www.kqed.org/news/11823958/defund-the-police-what-it-means-and-how-bay-area-cities-are-responding)   [APTP Statement on Oakland’s New Budget: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](https://www.antipoliceterrorproject.org/blog-entire/2023/6/27/aptp-statement-on-oakland-budget)  **Assignment due February 8:**   2-page written reflection based on February 1 class lecture and readings. |
| February 8 | Radical lawyering in practice: the right to housing | **Required readings:**  [‘Radical Real Estate School’ is in Session](https://oaklandside.org/2023/02/16/common-living-downtown-oakland-sro-landlord-contract/)  [We are Here: Oral Histories, San Francisco](https://archive.org/details/aempzinepaginated/page/n71/mode/2up?view=theater), pages 65 - 88  **Assignment due February 15:**   2-page written reflection based on February 8 class lecture and readings. |
| February 15 | Radical lawyering in practice: building worker power | **Required reading:**  [Worker Powered Co-Enforcement in the Bay Area: Pulling People into the Fight](https://dignityandrights.org/2023/02/co-governing-sanfrancisco/)  **Assignment due February 22:**   2-page written reflection based on February 15 class lecture and readings. |
| February 22 | Reflection and evaluation | **Required reading:**  [Rethinking the Foundational Critiques of Lawyers in Social Movements](https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5353&context=flr) by Scott L. Cummings |

**Berkeley Law Policies and Resources**

Students who need accommodations for disability or pregnancy or want to discuss the implementation of their accommodations, including accommodated exams, should contact [Chelsea Yuan](mailto:cdyuan@berkeley.edu), Director for Student Services, Accessible Education.

The [Academic Honor Code](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/academics/registrar/academic-rules/academic-honor-code/) governs the conduct of all students during examinations and in all other academic and pre-professional activities at Berkeley Law. We expect students to adhere to this code scrupulously. If you have any questions about whether your conduct may violate the code, please contact your professor or the Dean of Students before you act. You may face severe consequences, including a failing grade in this class or removal from the program, and the Bar will receive notification of your conduct.

Berkeley Law Academic Skills Program. Every student admitted to Berkeley Law has the ability to succeed in law school and we are committed to fostering an academic environment in which all students can achieve their full potential. To schedule an individual appointment and for handouts on core law school skills and study strategies, free online study aids, information about practice exams and hypos, and much more, please visit and bookmark [the Academic Skills Program website](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/students/student-services/academic-skills-program/).

Student Technology Help As a Berkeley Law student, you are entitled to general software support for your computer from the law school, and certain free software downloads from UC Berkeley, while enrolled.  If you have issues with internet access or computer equipment required to participate in classes remotely, contact [studentcomputing@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:studentcomputing@law.berkeley.edu). Information, links, and instructions for many common computer/technical questions can be found in the [law library's online computing guide](http://libguides.law.berkeley.edu/computing/home). For bCourses, Zoom, and technical support questions, please email [studentcomputing@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:studentcomputing@law.berkeley.edu) or you can use the [Student Computing chat.](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/internal/techChat.php) In both cases, someone will respond to you during our regular business hours.

If you have research-related questions, please contact the reference librarians by filling out the [reference request form](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/students/researchRequest.php). You can also reach reference librarians during business hours by using the [law library’s chat service](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/internal/chat.php).

If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find basic needs information [here](https://basicneeds.berkeley.edu/) You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via [CalFresh](http://calfresh.berkeley.edu/) or our Food Assistance Program. If you need food immediately, please visit our [UC Berkeley Food Pantry](https://pantry.berkeley.edu/).

The University of California is committed to creating and maintaining a community dedicated to the advancement, application, and transmission of knowledge and creative endeavors through academic excellence, where all individuals who participate in University programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Every member of the community should be aware that the University prohibits sexual violence and sexual harassment, retaliation, and other prohibited behavior (“Prohibited Conduct”) that violates the law and/or University policy. The University will respond promptly and effectively to reports of Prohibited Conduct and will take appropriate action to prevent, correct, and when necessary, to discipline behavior that violates this policy. For the complete UC Policy, definitions, compliance, and procedures, please access the [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy](https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000385/SVSH).

Resources: If you have further questions or concerns about reporting behavior related to sexual harassment, sexual violence, and/or protected category discrimination, please contact the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) by phone 510-643-7985 or email [ask\_ophd@berkeley.edu](mailto:ask_ophd@berkeley.edu).

[Path to Care Center](https://care.berkeley.edu/) Confidential Advocates provide affirming, empowering, and confidential support for those that have experienced gendered violence, including sexual harassment, emotional abuse, dating, and intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Advocates bring a non-judgmental, caring approach to exploring all options, rights, and resources. They can be reached by phone at (510) 642-1988.