

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1990-91

History 408
American Labor History, 1900-Present

Professor Zonderman
5213 Humanities Building
Office Hours: Tues. 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Thurs. 9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

263-1972
263-1800

Lectures: Tues. and Thurs., 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.
1641 Humanities Building
(there will also be a one hour required discussion section each week)

This course will explore the history of work, workers and working class organization in twentieth century America. We will focus on how working men and women have shaped, and in turn have been shaped by, socio-economic and technological change both in and out of the workplace. We will discuss a wide variety of issues including: workers' perception of major historical events (such as the World Wars and the Depression), workers' attitudes towards new modes of production (such as scientific management, the assembly line, computers, and automation), the organized labor movement and its relationship to twentieth century politics and government, and the crucial roles played by race and gender and ethnicity in shaping modern working class culture.

The following books are required reading for the course. They are available for purchase at the Rainbow Bookstore (426 W. Gilman); they are also on reserve at the College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

Jeremy Brecher, Strike
David Brody, Workers in Industrial America
Foster Rhea Dulles & Melvyn Dubofsky, Labor in America: A History
(4th edition)
Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow
Alice Kessler-Harrys, Out to Work
Studs Terkel, Working
Robert Zieger, American Workers, American Unions, 1920-1985

In addition, there will be a packet of photocopies for you to purchase at Kinkos (620 University Avenue). Copies will also be on reserve at the College Library. These readings are marked by the letter "P".

There will be two papers and a take-home final exam in this course. Each paper will be approximately 6-8 pages long; the first paper will be due on Thursday, February 21st and the second will be due on Thursday, April 4th. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam will be due on

Monday, May 13th. Papers are to be turned in the day they are due in class at the beginning of the period; there will be no extensions for late papers.

- Tues. Jan. 22 Introduction: American Workers and the Twentieth Century
- Thurs. Jan. 24 "Rationalizing" the Workplace: Workers, Scientific Management and Welfare Capitalism
reading: David Montgomery, Workers' Control in America, pp. 32-47 (p)
- Tues. Jan. 29 Workers and the Progressive Era: Child Labor, Industrial Health and Safety, and Protective Legislation
reading: Foster Rhea Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky, Labor in America, pp. 190-196
Alice Kessler-Harris, Out to Work, chap. 7
- Thurs. Jan. 31 Socialists, Conservative Craftsmen and Militant Women: Workers' Response to the Early Twentieth Century
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 175-190, 196-199
Kessler-Harris, chap. 6
- Tues. Feb. 5 The I.W.W. and Radical Syndicalism
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chap. 12
- Thurs. Feb. 7 "Fordism", the Assembly Line, and American Workers
reading: Stephen Meyer, The Five Dollar Day: Labor Management and Social Control in the Ford Motor Company, pp. 9-65 (p)
- Tues. Feb. 12 Workers and the First World War
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 215-220
- Thurs. Feb. 14 1919 and the Rumbblings of Revolution
reading: Jeremy Brecher, Strike, chap. 4
Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 220-232
- Tues. Feb. 19 Workers and the Myth of the Prosperous 1920s
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 233-250
Kessler-Harris, chap. 8
- Thurs. Feb. 21 Hard Times: Workers' Lives in the Great Depression
Paper Due
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 250-254
Kessler-Harris, pp. 250-258
Robert Zieger, American Workers, American Unions, 1920-1985, pp. 10-25
- Tues. Feb. 26 The New Deal, Workers, and Labor Law
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chap. 15
Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of

Sorrow, chap. 6
 Kessler-Harris, pp. 258-272
 Zieger, pp. 26-41

- Thurs. Feb. 28 Radicalism, Industrial Unionism, and the CIO
 reading: Brecher, chap. 5
 David Brody, Workers in Industrial America,
 pp. 82-119
 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 273-312
 Zieger, pp. 41-61
- Tues. Mar. 5 Workers and the Second World War: Mobilizing the Labor
 Force
 reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 312-334
 Zieger, pp. 62-76, 80-99
- Thurs. Mar. 7 Workers in the Second World War: Women and the Wartime
 Economy
 reading: Jones, pp. 232-256
 Kessler-Harris, chap. 10
 Studs Terkel, The Good War, pp. 105-119 (p)
 Zieger, pp. 76-80
- Tues. Mar. 12 Workers in Post-War America: Was There a "Great
 Bargain"?
 reading: Brody, pp. 173-214
 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 334-353
 Zieger, pp. 100-114, 147-158
- Thurs. Mar. 14 Workers in Post-War America: Labor, Domestic Politics
 and Foreign Policy
 reading: Brody, pp. 215-223, 229-255
 Zieger, pp. 114-123, 182-192
- Tues. Mar. 19 American Labor and the Anti-Communist Purge
 reading: Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais, Labor's
 Untold Story, pp. 340-376 (p)
 Brody, pp. 223-228
 Zieger, pp. 123-136
- Thurs. Mar. 21 Working Class Culture in Post-War America: Were There
 Blue Collar Suburbs?
 reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 374-380
 Zieger, pp. 137-147
- Tues. Apr. 2 White Collar Labor: A New Working Class?
 reading: Stanley Aronowitz, False Promises,
 chap. 6 (p)
 Studs Terkel, Working, pp. 448-462
 Zieger, pp. 163-167

Thurs. Apr. 4 Black Workers, White Unions and the Civil Rights Movement

Paper Due

reading: Philip Foner, Organized Labor and the Black Worker, pp. 397-424 (p)
 Jones, chap. 8
 Zieger, pp. 174-182

Tues. Apr. 9 American Workers, the New Left and the War in Vietnam

reading: Brecher, pp. 308-312
 Terkel, pp. 463-468
 Zieger, pp. 168-174

Thurs. Apr. 11 The Women's Movement and the Labor Movement

reading: Kessler-Harris, chap 11
 Ruth Milkman, (ed.), Women, Work and Protest, pp. 280-322 (p)

Tues. Apr. 16 Union Bureaucracy, Corruption, Reformers and Insurgents

reading: Brecher, chap. 8
 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 353-374
 Zieger, pp. 158-163

Thurs. Apr. 18 Harvest of Shame: The Enduring Problem of Migrant Workers

reading: Mark Day, Forty Acres: Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers, pp. 61-97, 111-118, 140-151, 161-168 (p)
 Terkel, pp. 30-38

Tues. Apr. 23 The Third Industrial Revolution: Automation and Industrial Labor

reading: Thomas Brooks, Toil and Trouble, chaps. 20-21 (p)
 Terkel, pp. 221-265, 515-521

Thurs. Apr. 25 The Third Industrial Revolution: Computers and Clerical Work

reading: Robert Howard, Brave New Workplace, pp. 68-90 (p)
 Terkel, pp. 344-355, 521-525

Tues. Apr. 30 New Immigrants in the Contemporary American Workplace

reading: Terkel, pp. 658-662
 Elizabeth Weiner and Hardy Green, "A Stitch in Our Time: New York's Hispanic Garment Workers in the 1980s" (p)

Thurs. May 2 The Reagan Revolution and the Labor Movement

reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chap. 21

Jones, epilogue
Zieger, pp. 193-199

- Tues. May 7 Darkness on the Edge of Town: Class and Culture in
Contemporary America
 reading: Terkel, pp. 396-405
- Thurs. May 9 The Future for American Workers