

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1992-93

History 408  
American Labor History, 1900-Present

Professor Zonderman  
5213 Humanities Building  
Office Hours: T, Th 9:30-10:30 am, or by appointment

263-1972  
263-1800

Lectures: Tues. and Thurs., 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.  
1101 Humanities Building

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' perceptions 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 University Bookstore; they are also on reserve at the College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

Eileen Boris and Nelson Lichtenstein, eds., Major Problems in the History of American Workers  
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-Harris, Out to Work  
Robert Zieger, American Workers, American Unions, 1920-1985

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 18th and the second will be due on Thursday, April 1st. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam will be do on Sunday, May 9th. 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. 19	Introduction: American Workers and the Twentieth Century
Thurs. Jan. 21	"Rationalizing" the Workplace: Workers, Scientific Management and Welfare Capitalism reading: Eileen Boris and Nelson Lichtenstein, eds. <u>Major Problems in the History of American Workers</u> , pp. 282-284, 318-326



- Tues. Mar. 2      Workers and the Second World War: Mobilizing the Labor Force  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 372-374, 464-467  
                               Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 312-334  
                               Zieger, pp. 62-76, 80-99
- Thurs. Mar. 4      Workers and the Second World War: Women and the Wartime Economy  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 471-474, 486-495  
                               Jones, pp. 232-256  
                               Kessler-Harris, ch. 10  
                               Zieger, pp. 76-80
- Tues. Mar. 16      Workers in Post-War America: Was There a "Great Bargain"?  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 423-427, 503-509  
                               Brody, pp. 173-214  
                               Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 334-353  
                               Zieger, pp. 100-114, 147-158
- Thurs. Mar. 18      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. 23      American Labor and the Anti-Communist Purge  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 468-471, 497-503, 510-524  
                               Brody, pp. 223-228  
                               Zieger, pp. 123-136
- Tues. Mar. 25      Working Class Culture in Post-War America: Were There Blue Collar  
                       Suburbs?  
                       reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 374-380  
                               Zieger, pp. 137-147
- Thurs. Mar. 30      White Collar Labor: A New Working Class?  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 542-549, 553-567  
                               Zieger, pp. 163-167
- Thurs. Apr. 1      Black Workers, White Unions and the Civil Rights Movement  
Paper Due            reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 475-486  
                               Jones, ch. 8  
                               Zieger, pp. 174-182
- Tues. Apr. 6      American Workers, the New Left and the War in Vietnam  
                       reading: Brecher, pp. 308-312  
                               Zieger, pp. 168-174
- Thurs. Apr. 8      The Women's Movement and the Labor Movement  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 550-553, 567-578, 621-632  
                               Kessler-Harris, ch. 11
- Tues. Apr. 13      Union Bureaucracy, Corruption, Reformers and Insurgents  
                       reading: Brecher, ch. 8  
                               Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 353-374  
                               Zieger, pp. 158-163
- Thurs. Apr. 15      Harvest of Shame: The Enduring Problem of Migrant Workers  
                       reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 181-190, 214-227

- Tues. Apr. 20      The Third Industrial Revolution: Automation and Industrial Labor  
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 636-643, 651-653, 662-672
- Thurs. Apr. 22      The Third Industrial Revolution: Computers and Clerical Work  
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 643-647, 653-662
- Tues. Apr. 27      New Immigrants in the Contemporary American Workplace  
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 596-597, 673-681
- Thurs. Apr. 29      The Reagan Revolution and the Labor Movement  
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 587-596, 598-600, 608-621, 647-651  
Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 21  
Jones, epilogue  
Zieger, pp. 193-199
- Tues. May 4      Darkness on the Edge of Town: Class and Culture in Contemporary America
- Thurs. May 6      The Future for American Workers  
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 600-608