

Department of History

Semester II Year 1979-80

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
571	Work in America, 1800-to the present	Barbara Melosh

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will approach labor history with the concerns and assumptions of social and cultural history. We will give some attention to the traditional subject matter of labor history, the rise and growth of organized labor. But we will draw on the revisions and expanded interests of the "new labor history" to explore other themes: the changes in work, the shifting composition of the work force, and the diversity and complexity of men's and women's experiences and consciousness of their work. Selected topics will include: workers' resistance to early factory discipline, the company town, scientific management and the cult of efficiency, automation and workers' alienation. Course readings represent the work and models of the new labor historians--E. P. Thompson, Herbert Gutman, David Montgomery and others,--and also reflect their redefinition of the boundaries of labor history in their diversity.

Enrollment is limited to 15. Active participation in class and intensive work on research paper are expected.

LECTURES

Most sessions will include a 50-minute lecture to supplement and situate the reading, but emphasis is on discussion.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

15-20 page research paper, based on primary sources. We will spend time in class and consult outside class hours to develop research and writing skills.

GRADING SYSTEM

Class participation:	25%
Short paper (5 pages):	25%
Research paper:	50%

REQUIRED READINGS

See next page

Reading list for Work in America (Books to buy)

Aronowitz, Stanley. False Promises. Labor and working class culture in the 1950s.

Baxandall et al. America's Working Women. Anthology of primary sources which traces women's entrance into the work force and explores their activities and consciousness at work.

Buder, Stanley. Pullman. Study of a company town.

Conway, Mimi. Rise, Gonna Rise. Oral histories of workers in the southern textile industry.

Dawley, Alan. Class and Community. Study of Lynn shoemakers in early American society.

Garson, Barbara. All the Livelong Day. Journalism and participant-observation on monotony of contemporary work and workers' responses.

Goodwyn, Lawrence. The Populist Moment. Late 19th century-early 20th century farmers' resistance to control of railroads and industry.

Nelson, Daniel. Managers and Workers. Changes in factory workplaces and organization with scientific management, early 20th century.

Ransom, Roger and Sutch, Richard. One Kind of Freedom. Work in the south after the civil war.

Ware, Norman. The Industrial Worker. Mid-nineteenth century focus.