

History 901-2
Spring 2013
Thursday 3:30-5:30
5257 Mosse Humanities Building

Professor Camille Guérin-Gonzales
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-4:30
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U.S. Social Movements in the Twentieth Century: Labor & Working-Class Coalitions

This is an advanced readings seminar on the formation of labor and working-class coalitions in the 20th century. We will focus on when, how, and why organized labor and working-class communities joined forces with other communities to fight for a more socially just world. In the process, we will explore the multiple histories of individuals and collectivities that intersected and coalesced into broad-based movements of social transformation at particular historical moments. And we will examine the hopes and aspirations of members of collectivities, paying close attention to the ways in which differences defined by race, class, gender, sexuality, and national sovereignty shaped the imaginary of social justice movements—sometimes dividing them into single-issue movements and sometimes uniting them into broad-based coalitions. We also will explore how social contestation reinterpreted norms, created new meanings, and disrupted public-private and personal-political binaries to produce new spaces of hope and justice. And we will look at the ways in which communities of solidarity drew on particular social imaginaries to build and represent in physical form these new spaces of hope and justice. Finally, we will look closely at how individuals and collectivities incorporated these struggles of imagination and representation into their everyday, material lives.

Course Requirements

1. General:

Faithful attendance and lively participation in discussions.

2. Writing *All writing projects must follow the Humanities Chicago/Turabian style.*

a. Trends in Labor & Social Movement History review essay and presentation.

You will select and review one of the four journals listed below to gain a sense of the development of particular trends in labor and social movement historiography and the landmark articles associated with these trends. The essay should be 1,200-1,500 words in length (approximately four-five pages). Please submit a paper copy and place an electronic copy in a drop box on the Learn@UW site for this course. **Due April 4 at the beginning of class.**

You will give a ten-minute presentation of your findings to the class.

Please adhere closely to the required length of both your report and presentation.

Labor History
Published by Routledge University Press
1960-present

Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas
Published by Duke University Press
2004-present

International Labor & Working-Class History
1972-present
Published by Cambridge University Press

Labour/Le Travail
Published by Canadian Committee on Labour History & Athabasca University Press
1976-present

b. Historiographical Essay.

You will write a historiographical essay that reviews scholarship on labor and social movement history related to your own research and/or teaching areas of expertise. (3,600-4,500 words in length, approximately twelve-fifteen pages).

Due Tuesday, May 15, 4:00, Mailbox 4018 Mosse Humanities Building.

Please adhere closely to the required paper length.

Grade Distribution:

Class Participation & Discussion	40%
Report & Presentation	25%
Historiographical Essay	35%

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, 711 State Street, and are on reserve in Helen C. White College Library.

Journal articles & essays are on the Learn @ UW site for this course.

Tom Goyens. *Beer and Revolution: The German Anarchist Movement in New York City, 1880-1914*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2007.

Barbara Foley. *Spectres of 1919: Class and Nation in the Making of the New Negro*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2003.

Michael Denning. *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*, 1997. New edition New York: Verso, 2011.

Catherine Ramirez. *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2009.

Daniel Widener. *Black Arts West: Culture and Struggle in Postwar Los Angeles*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2010.

Robert Rodgers Korstad. *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers & the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Nancy McLean. *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008.

Dorothy Sue Cobble. *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Peter Levy. *Labor and the New Left in the 1960s*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1994.

Michael Honey. *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2008.

Allan Berube. *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

Robert Self. *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2012.

Calendar and Reading Assignments

Week 1

January 24 Social Movements & the 1960s: Introduction

“Trends in Labor & Social Movement History”

Week 2

January 31 David Montgomery, “Trends in Working-Class History,” *Labour/Le Travail* 19 (Spring 1987): 13-22.

David Brody, “Reconciling the Old Labor History and the New,” *Pacific Historical Review* 62, no. 1 (February 1993): 1-18.

David Montgomery, “Presidential Address: Racism, Immigrants, and Political Reform,” *Journal of American History* 87, no. 4 (March 2001): 1253-1274.

Larry Isaac and Lars Christiansen, “How the Civil Rights Movement Revitalized Labor Militancy,” *American Sociological Review* 67, no. 5 (October 2002): 722-746.

Jacqueline Dowd Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past,” *Journal of American History* 91, no. 4 (2005): 1233-1263.

Joseph A. McCartin, “Bringing the State’s Workers in: Time to Rectify an Imbalanced U.S. Labor Historiography,” *Labor History* 47, no. 1 (February 2006): 73-94.

Gerald Friedman, Introduction to the “Labor History Theory and Practice Series,” *Labor History* 47, no. 2 (May 2006): 159-160.

Malcolm Rutherford, “Wisconsin Institutionalism: John R. Commons and His Students,” *Labor History* 47, no. 2 (May 2006): 161-188.

“Labor History Symposium” on *Labor Embattled* by David Brody, *Labor History* 47, no. 4 (November 2006): 547-581.

“Labor History Symposium” on *Black Americans and Organized Labor* by Paul D. Moreno, *Labor History* 48, no. 2 (May 2007): 209-247.

“Labor History Symposium” on *Restoring the American Dream* by Thomas A. Kochan, *Labor History* 48, no. 3 (August 2007): 347-369.

“Labor History Symposium” on *L.A. Story*, by Ruth Milkman, *Labor History* 48, no. 4 (November 2007): 501-529.

Christiane Harzig and Dirk Hoerder, “Internationalizing Working-Class History since the 1970s: Challenges from Historiography, Archives, and the Web,” *Library Trends* 56, no. 3 (Winter 2008): 635-649.

Jane Collins, “Theorizing Wisconsin’s 2011 Protests: Community-Based Unionism Confronts Accumulation by Dispossession,” *American Ethnologist* 39, no. 1 (February 2012): 6-20.

“The Laboring of American Working-Class Culture”

Week 3

February 7 Tom Goyens. *Beer and Revolution: The German Anarchist Movement in New York City, 1880-1914*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2007.

Week 4

February 14 Barbara Foley. *Spectres of 1919: Class and Nation in the Making of the New Negro*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2003.

Week 5

February 21 Michael Denning. *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Verso, 2011.

Week 6

February 28 Catherine Ramirez. *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2009.

Week 7

March 7 Daniel Widener. *Black Arts West: Culture and Struggle in Postwar Los Angeles*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2010.

“Forging Communities of Solidarity”

Week 8

March 14 Robert Rodgers Korstad. In *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers & the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Week 9

March 21 Nancy McLean. *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008.

Week 10

March 28 **Spring Break**

Week 11

April 4 Trends in Labor & Social Movement History reviews and presentations.

Please submit a paper copy & place an electronic copy in a drop box on the Learn@UW site for this course.

Please limit presentations to ten minutes.

“Forging Communities of Solidarity”

Week 12

April 11

Dorothy Sue Cobble. *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Week 13

April 18

Peter Levy. *Labor and the New Left in the 1960s*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1994.

Week 14

April 25

Michael Honey. *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2008.

Week 15

May 2

Allan Berube. *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

Week 16

May 9

Robert Self. *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s*.

May 15

Final Paper Due at 4:00 in Mailbox 4018 Mosse Humanities Building

**late papers receive significantly reduced grades, no exceptions*