

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 902: Graduate Research Seminar in American Labor History

Professor Zonderman
5213 Humanities
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon
 Thursdays 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
263-1972/263-1800

[Course readings can be purchased in a packet at Kinkos.]

This seminar will focus on the research and writing of an original scholarly paper on some aspect of American labor history. We will begin the semester with a brief examination of the development of labor history as a distinct historical sub-discipline, and a consideration of possible research agendas for the future of the field. Then we will be introduced to the rich printed and manuscript collections at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (The Society's archival holdings in labor history are judged by many to be the finest in the world.) After these preliminary sessions, students will be expected to formulate their own research topics. Each student should feel free to select whatever topic and time period interests her/him. We will discuss possible ideas for papers in class, and each student must speak to the instructor about his/her project before committing anything to paper.

The latter portion of the seminar will be devoted to students presenting their research in three successive stages for the class as a whole to constructively critique. Each student will first write a brief (2-3 page) prospectus, with an accompanying bibliography, outlining the major issues to be addressed in the completed study.

Then, each student will write a draft of his/her paper to be reviewed by the entire class. And, based on the discussion of the draft, each student will then have the opportunity to revise the manuscript into its final form for a concluding evaluation. Details about the procedures and scheduling of these various presentations will be forthcoming as the semester proceeds.

- Jan. 26 Introduction to the Seminar
- Feb. 2 The History of American Labor History
 readings: David Brody, "Workers and Work in America: The
 New Labor History"
 : David Brody, "The Old Labor History and the New:
 In Search of an American Working Class," Labor
 History, 20:1 (Winter 1979): 111-126
 : Robert Zieger, "Workers and Scholars: Recent
 Trends in American Labor Historiography," Labor
 History, 13:2 (Spring 1972): 245-266

- Feb. 9 Research Agendas in American Labor History
 readings: David Montgomery, "To Study the People: The
 American Working Class," Labor History, 21:4 (Fall
 1980): 485-512
- Feb. 16 Tour of printed sources at the State Historical Society of
 Wisconsin--with James Danky
- Feb. 23 Tour of manuscript sources at the State Historical Society of
 Wisconsin--with Harry Miller
- March 2 Individual appointments to discuss proposed paper topics
- March 9 Prospectus and Bibliography--each student will make his/her
March 16 prospectus and bibliography available for the entire seminar to
 review by Monday, 9 a.m., March 6 or 13, depending on which day
 the presentation is assigned; a ten minute oral presentation in
 class should accompany each written prospectus
- March 30 Presentation of Drafts--each student will make his/her draft
April 6 available for the entire seminar to review by Monday, 9 a.m.,
April 13 March 27, April 3, or April 10, depending on which day the draft
 is assigned; students may make a brief oral introduction to
 their paper (stressing the points they would like feedback on),
 if they wish, before it is discussed in class
- April 20 Individual appointments to discuss final papers
- April 27 Presentation of Final Papers--each student will make his/her
May 4 final paper available for the entire seminar to review by
May 11 Monday, 9 a.m., April 24, May 1 or May 8, depending on which day
 the final paper is assigned; again, students may make a few
 brief introductory remarks to their final study, if they wish,
 before it is critiqued by the seminar