Syllabus for Fall 2014

Instructor: Allan Frost

Tuesdays beginning September 23 and ending October 21. 10:55 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.

Cook/Douglas Campus
Waller Hall Room 203

1 Credit

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Course Overview

This course will study the historical, legal and practical issues of strike, stoppages, lockouts and boycotts in a collectively bargained as well as non-union environment. We will discuss basic labor law and labor relations concepts. We will study the origin of strikes, the different kinds of strikes as well as a brief overview of the legalities of strikes and lockouts. We will study the decision making process to engage in economic action designed to pressure the other side as well as the conduct, resolution and consequences of such action. We will consider alternatives to strikes. We will compare and contrast rights in the public and private employment sectors as well as strikes in the U.S. and overseas with regard to the goals and conduct. We will study famous strikes in history and the lessons learned. We will learn about other forms of economic action such as secondary boycotts, picketing, consumer boycotts and corporate campaigns. We will also consider the impact of such action on the public and the media coverage of strikes.

Course Requirements

- Students are required to attend all sessions of the course.
- All reading assignments should be completed before class since class participation is an essential element of the course. All reading assignments will either be handed out in class or posted in Sakai. No textbooks need to be purchased.
- Films, clips, and other materials will be used.
- Students will participate in a mock negotiation to settle a strike. There will be a final exam given the last week of class.

Week 1-

Frandsen, Paul, editor, translation of the “The Turin Strike Papyrus”, pages 1-3


Corcoran, Cliff, “The Strike: Who was right, who was wrong and how it helped baseball”, pages 1-4.

Week 2-

The decision to strike or lockout. Understanding leverage, timing and credibility. Consideration of the consequences of a strike. Union democracy and politics in a strike. Notice requirements. The film “Final Offer” will be shown.

Readings:


Week 3-

The conduct of a strike or lockout. What happens during a strike. What happens after the strike. Restoration of a relationship and implementation of change. Corporate campaigns, boycotts, handbilling. The lockout strategies. Alternatives to a strike or lockout. The film “Locked Out” will be shown. The public sector. Discussion of the Air Traffic Controllers and Boston Police Strike.

Readings:


Fillipelli, Ronald, editor, ”Labor Conflict in the United States”, pages 64-66.
Week 4-

The course wrap-up. Students will be divided into two sections. One section will represent the Trustees of Northwestern University and the other section will represent the scholarship football players for Northwestern University. The parties will attempt to avoid a strike by negotiating an agreement on the eve of Northwestern’s participation in the Rose Bowl. The parties will select their negotiating committees and introduce five subject matters to be negotiated.

Readings:

No assigned readings, Presentation preparation.

Week 5- Final exam