DEVELOPMENT OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT II (On-Line)
37:575: 202 (Section 90) – Spring 2014

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This on-line course traces the history of the labor movement in the U.S. from the mass strike movement of 1877 (the “Great Upheaval”) to the current attack on worker standards and collective bargaining rights. Course themes include the sources and forms of labor-capital conflict; the impact of the civil rights and women’s movements on the workplace and society-at-large; changes in technology, production, and workplace organization in an evolving capitalist economy; the rise and fall of private sector, industrial unionism; the growth of public sector unionism in the 1960s and the current efforts to weaken public employee unions; and the future of worker rights and labor movements in the United States.

Although not the exclusive focus of the course, we will closely study how labor unions have responded to changes in our economy, political system, and culture. Who labor unions represent, what they seek to accomplish in the short-and long-term, and how they attempt to reach their goals has evolved, even though the basic rationale for union organization – to defend and advance the interests of working people vis-à-vis powerful employers - has remained the same. In this course, we will look at how unions’ ability to improve their members’ living standards and working conditions has widely fluctuated. At times, unions have been quite weak, almost marginal in their influence. However, during other periods, unions have had a central role in shaping the economic and political systems in the U.S.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The following learning objectives of the course are based on Rutgers University’s “Permanent Core Curriculum Learning Outcome Goals” (May 2008) and relate to the overall objective of a liberal arts education. "A Rutgers SAS graduate will be able to:"

H: Understand the basis and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
K: Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time
L: Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors
M: Understand different theories of human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

In the writing and communication area of the core:

S1: Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
S2: Provide and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers and instructors/supervisors through successive drafts.
T: Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.
U: Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.
V: Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Please note that this course partially meets the writing distribution requirement for the School of Arts and Sciences. In addition to developing your own writing skills through writing successive drafts, you will learn how to provide constructive feedback to other students’ writings.

COURSE PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

We will examine U.S. history from the perspective of the role and needs of working people. However, students are encouraged to freely express their views, including those that are critical of labor unions, as well as government policies advocated by unions and their allies. Respect for and appreciation of different viewpoints will be a guiding principle in the class.

Since this an on-line course, students will not be discussing topics in class, but will be interacting with each other in discussion forums and peer review of writing assignments. It is expected that students will maintain a positive and respectful attitude when interacting with peers, with the goal of helping each other to develop a better understanding of the development of the labor movement from 1877 to the present.

COURSE READINGS:

1. Required Book. The following required book is available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (732-246-8448), located across from the New
Brunswick train station in Ferren Plaza. It may also be purchased online at bn.com.

2. **Required Online Readings**: In addition to the required books, all required excerpted readings are in the Document Sharing section of the “course shell” on e-College. The online readings complement the material in the text. Some of the online readings are **primary sources and will be noted as (PS) in the syllabus** – i.e. they are from the time period discussed in the text. Other online readings are secondary sources; they are interpretations and evaluations of the events or developments.

Primary sources and some of the secondary sources are from the following books:


OUTLINE OF COURSE UNITS

GETTING STARTED:
Tuesday, January 21 to Sunday, January 26

Become familiar with the web site that has the on-line course. This is called the “course shell.” Learn about the instructor and introduce yourself to other students by writing an on-line introduction. (Instructions for how to submit the introduction are provided in the course shell.)

Unit 1: A BRIEF REVIEW OF EARLY U.S. LABOR HISTORY
Monday, January 27 to Sunday, February 2

Readings:

Video Clips: “The Grand Army of Starvation – Pts. 1, 2, & 3”

➔Assignment: Response Paper

Unit 2: INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM IN THE GILDED AGE (1877 to 1900)
Monday, February 3 to Sunday, February 9

Readings:
- WBA? Ch. 1 - pp. 23-52, 64-71 (begin on p. 64 with the section “Extractive Industries and Exploited Workers)."

Unit 3: WORKERS’ LIVES AND WORKERS’ ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GILDED AGE (1877 to 1900)
Monday, February 10 to Sunday, February 16

Readings:
- WBA? Ch. 2 – pp. 77-84, 91-120 (begin on p. 91 with the section, “The Workingman’s Hour”).
- WBA? Ch. 3 - pp. 125-134 (read up to but not including the section, “The Populist Movement”), 167-174 (begin on p. 167 with the section, “Business on the Rebound”).
- “Statement from the Pullman Strikers,” pp. 234-236. [PS - VPHUS]

Video Clip: “Homestead Strike and Andrew Carnegie”

➔ Assignment: Group Forum Discussion (Each student will be assigned to a specific group)

Unit 4: REFORM & RADICALISM IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA (1900 to 1914)
Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23

Readings:
- WBA? Ch. 4 - pp. 181-202, 216-217
- WBA? Ch. 5 – pp. 223-225, 241-269

Video Clip: “The Beat of the System”

➔ Assignment - Writing Assignment 1

Unit 5: WORLD WAR I AND THE “LEAN DECADE” FOR AMERICAN WORKERS (1914 to 1929)
Monday, February 24 to Sunday, March 2

Readings:
- WBA? Ch. 6 - pp. 279-280, 292-312, 320-329
- WBA? Ch. 7 – pp. 335-339, 343-352, 375-384

➔ Assignment - Peer Review of Another Student’s Writing Assignment 1

Unit 6: THE GREAT DEPRESSION & THE FIRST NEW DEAL (1929 to 1935)
Monday, March 3 to Sunday, March 9

Reading:
- WBA? Ch. 8

Assignment: Group Forum Discussion (Each student will be assigned to a specific group)

Unit 7: LABOR UPSURGE: THE INDUSTRIAL UNION MOVEMENT AND THE SECOND NEW DEAL (1935 to 1939)
Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14

Readings:
• WBA? Ch. 9
• “Dollinger Remembers the Flint Sit-down Strike,” pp. 345-349. [PS - VPHUS]

Video Clips: “AFL vs. CIO Split in 1935,” and the “Chicago Memorial Day Massacre.”

Assignment: Exam #1 (Covers Units 1 through 7)

SPRING BREAK – SATURDAY, MARCH 15 TO SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Unit 8: WORKING PEOPLE & WORLD WAR II (1939 to 1946)
Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30

Reading:
• WBA? Ch. 10

Video Clips: "Manpower Needs in World War II” and "Rosie the Riveter: Real Women Workers in World War II.”

Assignment: Group Forum Discussion (Each student will be assigned to a specific group)

Unit 9: THE COLD WAR BOOM & THE SOCIAL COMPACT (1946 to 1960)
Monday, March 31 to Sunday, April 6

Readings:
• WBA? Ch.11
• “James Lerner Defends the UE,” pp. 208-211. [PS - VOP]

Video Clip: “The Challenge”

Assignment: Submit 1st Draft of Writing Assignment 2

Unit 10: THE RIGHTS-CONSCIOUS ‘60s & THE RISE OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONISM (1960 to 1973)
Monday, April 7 to Sunday, April 13

Reading:
• WBA? Ch. 12

Video Clips: “Segregation at All Costs: Bull Connor and the Civil Rights Movement” and “I Am a Man: Dr. King and the Memphis Sanitation Strike.”

Assignments:
1) Peer Review of Another Student’s 1st Draft (by Thursday, 4/10)
2) Final Version of Writing Assignment 2 (by Sunday, 4/13)

Unit 11: ECONOMIC ADVERSITY & THE DECLINE OF PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONISM (1973 to 1989)
Monday, April 14 to Sunday, April 20

Readings:
• WBA? Ch. 13


Unit 12: NEW CHALLENGES FOR LABOR IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION (1989 to 2001)
Monday, April 21 to Sunday, April 27

Readings:
• WBA? Ch. 14
• “Sweeney’s Victory Speech, Union Strike Victory at UPS” pp. 522-529. [PS - MPHAW]
Video Clip: “America’s Victory: The 1997 UPS Strike”

⇒ Assignment: Group Forum Discussion (Each student will be assigned to a specific group)

Unit 13: AFTER 9/11: AMERICA & LABOR (2001 to 2014)
Monday, April 28 to Sunday, May 4

Readings:
• WBA? Ch. 15
• Slott – “Summary of U.S. Labor History: 2001 to 2014”


⇒ Assignment: Group Forum Discussion (Each student will be assigned to a specific group)

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS – Due Sunday, May 11
Writing Assignment 3
Exam #2 (Covers Units 8 through 13)
GRADING CRITERIA AND COMPONENTS

Grading Criteria:

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0 to 599 points</td>
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Grading Components:

Grades are based on the following components:

#1 - Forum Discussions: Units 3, 6, 8, 12, & 13
25% of the grade
Each forum discussion = 50 point. 5 x 50 = 250 points

#2 - Exams: Unit 7 & Final Assignment (Exams are True/False, Multiple Choice, and Brief Answer Questions)
20% of the grade
Each exam = 100 points. 2 x 100 = 200 points

#3 - Peer Review of Another Student’s Writing/Editing Assignment: Units 5 & 10
10% of the grade
Each peer review = 50 points. 2 x 50 = 100 points

#4 - Writing Assignments: Units 1, 5, 10, & Final Assignment
45% of the grade
Response Paper = 50 points; Writing Assignment 1 = 150 points; Writing Assignment 2 = 150 points Final Assignment = 100 points.
50 + 150 +150 +100 = 450 points

Please note:
All late papers will be downgraded one letter grade (e.g. A → B)