Class:   Mondays, 6:00-8:40 pm
         Room # 209

Instructor: Jennifer Zachary
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            Phone:  732-547-8706
            Office hours: By appointment

Course Expectations and Requirements

This course is designed to give you a chance to become engaged with the intellectual tradition in labor studies. You will read classic authors and current professional theory. You will have the opportunity to examine some of the big issues in the field and to decide what you think about them. You will also gain proficiency in important skills: reading for analytical insight, debating ideas, and communicating with others. Students should all be labor studies majors or minors with 15 credits or more in labor studies; if you are not in this category but want to take the class, you need permission of the instructor.

Classwork and Preparation for Class

Class attendance is mandatory and reading assignments are expected to be completed before class. Please bring hardcopies of the readings to class. Assigned readings are on the Sakai website. Supplemental material may also be handed out in class or added to the Sakai website.

Please turn off cell phones during class time. Also, you may use computers for notes, but do not check email or text during class. If you are ill or have an emergency that requires you to miss a class, please inform the instructor of the situation before the class if possible, or as soon after the class as you can.

It is important to participate in discussions and group activities.

Requirements

Paper
Students will pick a class reading on which they would like to write a paper of at least 5 pages. This paper should: a) summarize the main points of the reading, b) relate it to other relevant readings, including at least one academic book or article from outside the syllabus, c) evaluate the strengths and/or weaknesses of the authors’ arguments, and d) draw your own conclusions based on the evidence, and e) relate the readings to your own experiences or current events if relevant. You should submit both a hardcopy in class, and an electronic copy to the Sakai website (see instructions below). The paper will determine 25% of the grade for the semester. Papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com to ensure that they are original and there is no
plagiarism. Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a grade (e.g., A to A-) for 1-2 days late, two-thirds of a grade (e.g., A to B+) for 3-4 days late, and a full grade for 5 or more days late.

**Participation**

This course emphasizes student participation. All students are expected to attend class and discuss the readings. To prepare for participation students are asked to write one-paragraph summaries of the main points of each weekly reading and 1-2 reactions and/or questions they raise. You are encouraged to bring in information on current events that relate to the class readings. You can also email interesting articles to the instructor, who will post them on Sakai for the whole class. Information on current events may be from newspapers, magazine articles, websites, or television programs.

You should hand in a hardcopy of your summaries in class, and also upload a copy to the Sakai website (see instructions below). You may skip handing in summaries for two weeks of readings during the semester (you choose which weeks you want to skip). Students are responsible for handing in at least 9 summaries by the end of the semester. Extra credit will be given to those who hand in 11 summaries. There will also be a collaborative powerpoint group presentation, which will be assigned. Details will be announced as the semester begins. Attendance, the weekly summaries of the readings, the collaborative powerpoint presentation, and participation in discussions will determine 25% of the grade for the semester.

**Exams**

Final grades will also be based 25% on the first exam and 25% on the second exam.

**Readings**

Readings are available on Sakai. To obtain the readings do the following:

1. Go to [http://sakai.rutgers.edu](http://sakai.rutgers.edu)
2. Enter your Rutgers ID and password in the upper right corner
3. Click on the tab that says “Perspectives on Labor Studies 37:575:395:80 Sp12”
4. Click on “Resources” at the left
5. Click on the folder titled “Perspectives on Labor Studies 37:575:395:80 Sp12Resources”
6. Click on the folder for the week you want, then the file you want to download. Many of the readings are in Adobe Acrobat format. If your computer doesn’t have it, you can download the reader for free at [http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html)

If you have technical problems with Sakai, please contact Laura Walkoviak at 732-932-9503 or Walkoviak@smlr.rutgers.edu.

**Submitting papers and weekly summaries to Sakai**
You should submit hardcopies of the paper and weekly summaries in class, and also upload these to Sakai so there is a permanent record. Follow the directions above to get onto the Sakai site, and click on “Assignments” on the left so that you can see a list of the weekly assignments. You can submit your summary and paper either by copying text into the “Submission” box or by attaching a file.

Also, please check “Announcements” on the left of the Sakai site each week for any updates on the class and assignments.

**Opening Class: January 23rd**

Overview of the course and course requirements, plus initial discussion.

**Unit 1: Mon. January 23rd- . February 13th (3 weeks)**

*Classical Economics & Marx, Scientific Management, and the Division of Labor*

**Topic 1-1: January 30th**


**Topic 1-2: Feb. 6th**


Deepa Kumar, *Outside the Box: Corporate Media, Globalization, and the UPS Strike*. (Urbana & Chicago: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2007), Preface (pp. vii-xv) and part of Chapter 6, pp. 155-157 midpage. The rest of the excerpt from Chapter 6 (pp. 157 midpage – 163 is optional reading).

**Topic 1-3: Feb. 13th**


Unit 2: Wed Feb. 20 - Tues. March 10 (3 weeks)

*Markets and Institutions*

**Topic 2-1:** Feb. 20th


**Topic 2-2** Feb. 27th

[Note: You will have the chance to chose to do a collective, rather than an individual writing project for 2-2, so this spans two weeks but it is important to read this material and start the project the first week.]


Unit 3: Wed. March 5 – April 2nd (5 weeks including spring break)

*Organizations and Humans Who Work in Them*

**Topic 3-1** March 5th

[Note: Spring break is in the middle of these two weeks so this is one week of class time]


March 12th SPRING BREAK

Topic 3-2 March 19th


Topic 3-3: March 26th
[Note: You will have the chance to do a collective, or an individual, power-point project here so 3-3 spans two weeks but it is important to read this material and start the project the first week.]


Unit 4 Wed. April 9th - 23rd (3 weeks)

Freedom and Democracy in a World of Multi-National Corporations

[Note: Tuesday May 5 is the first day of the reading period. Material in the final week is due on Monday, rather than on Tuesday – however, assignments for the final week will be accepted up to the usual time on Tuesday May 5 without a penalty for lateness.]

Topic 4-1 April 9th


Topic 4-2 April 17th


Topic 4-3 April 23rd
Richard Freeman and James L. Medoff, Excerpt from “The Two Faces of Unionism,” Public Interest, No. 57 (Fall, 1979), pp. 69-76.


April 30th last day of regular classes.

Final Exam date to be announced: May 3rd-May 9th