Class Meetings: Prof. Tobias Schulze-Cleven
Room 206, Scott Hall tobias.schulze-cleven@rutgers.edu
College Ave Campus OH: after class or by arrangement (including
Tuesday, 10:20am–1:20pm online)

Course Overview:
A central issue of our time is the strength of democracy, especially in light of a variety of
economic and social pressures that have made many countries, even in the West, turn to
authoritarian parties and governments. This course probes the role that labor movements play for
democracy in comparative perspective. Students will be introduced to workers’ collective action
as a worldwide phenomenon that has been central to the political economic development of
capitalist democracies. Grounded in a historical institutionalist approach from political science,
the course emphasizes how countries’ unique histories and their institutional contexts have
shaped both the political opportunities for workers’ evolving collective action and the effects that
such social mobilization has had on the relationship between capitalism and democracy.

With reference to two centuries of transatlantic history, the class covers both key political
achievements of the working class as well as labor’s contemporary challenges. Among the
achievements, we focus in particular on the extension of democratic rights and the expansion of
welfare states; among the challenges, we probe the needs to accommodate shifting social
cleavages, respond to economic globalization, and devise strategies for revitalization.

Learning Objectives: The student is able to…

21C Core Curriculum:
• Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person’s experiences of
and perspectives on the world (Goal a).
• Analyze issues of social justice across local and global contexts. (Goal d).

Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department:
• Analyze a contemporary global issue in labor & employment relations from a multi-
disciplinary perspective (Goal 7).
• Analyze issues of social justice related to work across local and global contexts (Goal 8).

School of Management and Labor Relations:
• Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions
(Goal V).

Additional Course Objectives from the Instructor:
• Use the comparative approach to develop a solid understanding of labor movements’
origins, nature, and effects.
• Improve professional competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving, verbal
and written communication, and interpersonal skills.
Course Requirements (details at the end of the syllabus):

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Participation</td>
<td>40% of the course grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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* The in-class participation grade includes three elements: “Active” contribution, quizzes, and attendance, which by default each contribute 20%, 10%, and 10% of the overall class grade. In general, “active” contribution is about speaking up (based on reading, thinking, and good listening), and it tends to count twice as much as quizzes and attendance combined. I group these different elements under one category to have some flexibility in adjusting the weight of the different elements of the participation grade to capture a student’s strengths and effort most positively. There is also an option of an extra-credit paper to boost your participation grade if so desired (more on that later).

Course Outline:

**Week 1: Building a Foundation (January 16)**

**What Counts as Workers’ Collective Action? What is the Role of Markets?**

**How Do Racial (or Gender) Structures Shape Capitalism’s Impact on Labor?**

**How Do Workers Act Collectively in Democracy? What are the Effects?**
SECTION I: TOOLS FOR ANALYZING LABOR MOVEMENTS

This section of the course probes how we can conceptualize labor movements and their actions: Who belongs to them? What does a labor movement seek to do? Why does a movement end up doing what it does?

Week 2: Work & Collective Action (January 23)

**Is Collective Action Necessary?**

**Different Forms of Collective Action**

Week 3: Labor as a Social Movement (January 30) – QUIZ!

**Illustration (I): The California Farm Worker Movement**

**Theory (I): The Dynamics of Building Social Movements**

Week 4: Institutions & Workers’ Collective Action (February 6)

**Illustration (II): Organized Labor & Immigration**

**Theory (II): Context Shapes Social Action**
SECTION II: LABOR MOVEMENTS IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY

In this section of the course, we move beyond the United States to probe how labor movements have played pivotal roles in many countries’ histories. We focus on the role of labor in shaping the fate of democracy and capitalism during the 1930s, and in the consolidation of welfare states after World War II.

Week 5: Promoting Social Democracy (February 13) – QUIZ!

Establishing the Primacy of Politics

The Swedish Path to Social Democracy

Week 6: Limits to Social Democracy in Germany and the United States (February 20)

The German Path to National Socialism

The American Labor Movement and the New Deal
Week 7: Consolidating Welfare States (February 27)

**Theorizing the Class Bases of Interwar Regimes Outcomes**

**Bringing in the Middle Class after World War II**

Week 8: The Constitutive Role of Race (March 5) – QUIZ!

**Racial Differences and the Promise of Post-Industrialism**
Voluntary: Video presentation at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34OSRhOjxqw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34OSRhOjxqw) (Start at 11 minutes; stop at 48 minutes but encouraged to watch longer)

**Organized Labor, Democracy, and Race in the United States**

NO CLASS DURING SPRING BREAK (March 9-17)

Week 9: The Gendered Division of Labor (March 19)

**The British Case**
We will watch and then discuss the movie “Made in Dagenham” (2010). No need to watch at home. To prepare for the discussion, please read the two pieces below.

**Reproductive Labor**

Week 10: First Exam | No Class (March 26)

**Prepare for Midterm Exam**
Go over review sheet, readings, and notes from the preceding weeks.

SECTION III: LABOR AND DEMOCRACY TODAY

In this section, we review the state of labor and democracy today. A close look at the United States will be complemented by exploration into how both other countries and labor activists have responded to key challenges. We also where societies and labor movements could go in the future, including what steps are necessary for progressive outcomes.

Week 11: Democracy at the Crossroads (April 2)

High Stakes
(While the readings will be on the US, the class will take a comparative view.)

Week 12: A Future for Social Democracy? (April 9)

Comparative Perspectives

Week 13: Toward a 21st-Century Labor Movement (April 16)

New Organizing Models

Bargaining for the Common Good
Week 14: Tasks Ahead & Course Wrap-Up (April 23)

Re-envisioning Democracy

Developing a Reform Strategy
Sojourners, March, 18-19.

Exam Week: Final Exam (April 24 – May 5)

Prepare for Second Exam
Go over review sheet, readings and notes from the preceding weeks.
Voluntary: Watch the video on crises and dilemmas of democracy at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kcx0mabB3dY

Appendix I – Further Information on Course Assignments & Class Rules:

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE
Be prepared for class and always read the assigned materials before our meetings. You are expected to bring questions and comments about the course material so that you can participate in class discussions. With much of our time spent learning through discussion, it is necessary for everybody to participate. I might ask students to use their questions to stimulate discussions and will ensure broad participation. It is critical that we respect one another’s thoughts and address our comments at others’ ideas, not at people themselves. This course is not a forum for demeaning or threatening language. Rather than measuring the frequency with which you speak in class, your participation grade reflects how you balance reasoning, reading, and listening. Also, do not forget to take careful notes to complement my PowerPoint slides.

Students should plan to attend every course session. If for some unavoidable reason you must miss a class, please let me know in advance through the university’s absence reporting website (https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) so that your absence will not remain unexplained. If you are late or leave early repeatedly, and if you miss class unexcused, your participation grade will suffer.

QUIZZES
There will be three short take-home quizzes during the semester (administered via Canvas). If you do the assigned readings, you should have no problem doing well on the quizzes. There will
be no trick questions, nor will a complete understanding of the reading be required. Rather, the quizzes are geared to helping you engage with the provided materials by asking you to answer some very basic questions. Your performance in the quizzes will become part of your in-class participation grade.

EXAMS
The midterm exam on the material from the first half of the course will be given via Canvas. You will be able to independently pick the most suitable time for you during the week to take it. You will be asked to define key terms, provide short answers to questions, and write an essay. Students should take at least two hours to complete the exam. There will likely be a word limit for the essay portion.

The final exam will also be given via Canvas. You will again be able to independently pick the most suitable time for you to take it. This exam will test you on the second half of the course, and you will be expected to use what you have learned in class to advance clear arguments in two essays. You should again plan to spend at least two hours on the exam. There will be a word limit. I will give you more information about the exam a few weeks before the end of the semester.

COMMUNICATION
Students are expected to check their Rutgers email accounts regularly for class announcements. Students are responsible for all information communicated to them via email by the instructor. Feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions or concerns about the course. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours. When emailing the instructor, always include “Labor & Democracy” in the subject line of your email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
While I encourage students to work together to understand theories and concepts, all written work must be your own. If you cite an author or use his/her ideas, please cite properly. Plagiarized assignments or evidence of cheating will result in a failing grade in the assignment and possibly in the course. Moreover, plagiarism may result in disciplinary action by the university.

DISABILITY STATEMENT
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Helpdesk: Rutgers Office of Information and Technology
Email: https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support
Call: 833-OIT-HELP

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy.

As the instructor for this course, I have the responsibility to protect students’ right to privacy. Classroom recordings of students will therefore be treated as educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the U.S. federal law that governs access to educational information and records. Instructors and students must provide notification if any part of sessions are to be recorded, and such recordings cannot be circulated outside the course.