Instructor: Peter DeChiara  
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Office Hours: by appointment  
Class Location: Labor Education Center, Room 115

Course Description:
This is a course on the history of the American labor movement since the beginning of the twentieth century. We will study how unions over the decades have struggled to improve workers’ lives. Topics will include industrialization; immigration; racial, ethnic and gender divisions in the working class; the Great Depression and the two world wars; labor law; labor and politics; the rise of unions for government workers; and the decline of unions in the private sector of the economy. The course will provide students writing experience, by requiring two short papers.

The course is designed for students to:
• understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and space
• explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science
• employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors
• understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization
• communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
• respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revisions
• communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry
• evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly
• analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Texts:


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Also, there is a “Supplemental Readings” (“SR”) document posted on Sakai.

**Course Requirements:**

Reading is assigned for each class. Students are required to do the reading in *advance* of class and be prepared to discuss it during class.

Students will be required to write two short papers. Students will also be required to peer review the papers of other students.

There will also be two quizzes and a final in-class exam. Attendance for the final exam days is required; a doctor’s note or other documented reason for absence will be required before absence from class on the exam day is excused.

Grades will be based on attendance, participation in class and grades on the papers, quizzes and the exam.

Class #1 (Jan. 25) -- Introduction to the course

Class #2 (Feb. 1) – Industrialization in late 19th Century/early 20th Century America

Reading: AWAU, p.1-top p.18; WBA, p.27-top half of p.41, p.44-top p.45; SR #1-2

[No class on Sunday, Feb. 8]

Class #3 (Feb. 15) – The AFL, the IWW and the Knights of Labor

Reading: AWAU, p.18-32; WBA, p.94-97, p.104-top 106, p.111-top of 115, p.249, p.251-52; SR #3-4

Assignment: Paper #1 due next week

Class #4 (Feb. 22) – The First World War and Its Aftermath

Reading: AWAU, p.33-42; WBA, p.279-94, p.308-10, p.320-22, p.324; SR #5-7

Paper #1 due

In-class exercise: peer review of another student’s paper

Class #5 (March 1) – From Prosperity to Depression


Discussion of Paper #1; revised Paper #1 due

In-class review in preparation for Quiz #1

Class #6 (March 8) – The New Deal


Quiz #1 (covering Class #2-Class #5)
[Spring Break, no class on Sunday March 15 or Sunday March 22]

Class #7 (March 29) – Rise of Industrial Unions
Reading: AWAU, pp.82-103; WBA, pp.455-top p.467, pp.483-85
Review of Quiz #1
Paper #2 due next week

Class #8 (April 5) – Second World War
Reading: AWAU, pp.104-11, 117-33, 136-37, 140-43; WBA, pp.519-28; SR #11
Paper #2 due
In-class exercise: peer review of another student’s paper.

Class #9 (April 12) – The Post-War Years
Reading: AWAU, pp. 144-54, 159-top p.168, 174-77; WBA, pp.558-59, 567-568, p.570-71; SR #12
Revised paper #2 due.
In-class review in preparation for Quiz #2

Class #10 (April 19) – The Fifties
Quiz #2 (covering Class #6-#9)

Class #11 (April 26) – The Sixties and Early Seventies
Review of Quiz #2

Class #12 (May 3) – The Late Seventies to 2000
Review for in-class exam

Class #13 (May 10) – In-Class Exam

Links to Purdue University writing resources:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/02 (expository essays)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/588/01 (thesis statements)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/1 (paragraphs)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/539/01 (active vs. passive voice)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/572/1 (conciseness)
How to do an outline:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/02/
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/03/
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/1/