

# HISTORY OF LABOR AND WORK IN THE UNITED STATES, 1880-1945

37:575:202:03

Spring 2017

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.

Instructor: Peter DeChiara  
Email: pdechiara@cwsny.com  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Class Location: Labor Education Center, Room 115

## Course Description:

This is a course on the history of the American workers and the American labor movement from 1880 to 1945. Topics will include industrialization; immigration; racial, ethnic and gender divisions in the working class; craft and industrial unionism; the Progressive Movement and the New Deal; the Great Depression and the two world wars; labor law and labor and politics. The course will provide students writing experience, by requiring two short papers and an essay exam.

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:

1 - *Who Built America: Working People and the Nation's History*, Volume Two: 1877 to the Present, Third Edition, Bedford/St. Martin's (2008) ("WBA")

2 - Robert H. Zieger, Timothy J. Minchin, Gilbert J. Gall, *American Workers, American Unions: The 20<sup>th</sup> and Early 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries*, Fourth Edition, Johns Hopkins University Press (2014) ("AWAU")

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. 22) -- Introduction to the course

Class #2 (Jan. 29) – Industrialization/Working conditions

Reading: WBA 27-45, 70-71, 197-202, 207 (Figure 4.3), 339 (Table 7.1); SR 1-7, 39-50, 55.

Class #3 (Feb. 5) – Immigration/Discrimination/Knights of Labor

Reading: WBA: 91-94, 99, 103-106, 144-57, 192-97; AWAU 14-18; SR 8-10, 66-78, 94-107.

[No class Feb. 12]

Class #4 (Feb. 19) – American Federation of Labor/Socialist Party/Industrial Workers of the World

Reading: WBA 111-15, 170-74; 245-46, 248-52; SR 11, 12-18, 79-88, 111-118, 232-245

Class #5 (Feb. 26) – Progressive Movement/Legal Obstacles

Reading: WBA, pp.168, 182-84, 186-88, 223-24, bottom 238-40; SR 210 (Fourteenth Amendment; Sherman Antitrust Act), 218-221, 154-top 165, bottom 187-191, 246-top 248, 250-51.

Paper #1 Due; Peer Review of Paper #1

In-class review in preparation for Quiz #1

Class #6 (March 5) – First World War and its Aftermath

Reading: AWAU pp.34-42, WBA 279-81, 287-94, 308-10, 320-24; SR 19-25, 89-90

Revised Paper #1 Due

Quiz #1 (covering Class #2-Class #6)

[Spring Break, no class on Sunday March 12 or Sunday March 19]

Class #7 (March 26) – The Twenties

Reading: AWAU pp.42-49, WBA 335-36, 342-47, 349, 351-55, 357-66; SR 26, 52-59, 122-124  
Review of Quiz #1; Review of Paper #1

Class #8 (April 2) – The Depression

Reading: AWAU pp. 50-65, WBA 391-400, 404-411, 416-17; SR 225-228, 125-136

Class #9 (April 9) – The New Deal

Reading:

WBA 420-top of 421, bottom 425, 427, top 429, middle 439, 445-50, 454-55, 458-top 461, 483-84; SR 60-top of 61, bottom 167-178, 180-81, 262-267.

Paper #2 due

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

In-class review in preparation for Quiz #2

Class #10 (April 16, Easter Sunday) – No class

Reading: none

Class #11 (April 23) – Growth of Industrial Unionism

Reading: AWAU 66-75, 82-103; WBA 429-432; SR 137-145, 182-83, 252-261

Revised paper #2 due.

Quiz #2 (covering Class #6-#9)

Class #12 (April 30) – World War II

Reading: AWAU 104-37 SR 31-35, 149-150

Review of Quiz #2

Review for in-class exam

Class #13 (May 7) – 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/>