This course will explore the history of work, workers, and working class culture in America from the founding of the first colonies to the beginning of the twentieth century. We will focus on how men and women have constantly strived to make sense of the profound socio-economic and technological changes taking place in this period. We will discuss a wide variety of issues including: workers' organizations and unions, radicalism and working class political culture, the effects of immigration and urbanization on American workers, and the significance of race and gender on workers' solidarity.

The following books are required reading for the course, they are available for purchase in the University Bookstore and are on reserve in Room 1191, College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

Jeremy Brecher  
Thomas Dublin  
Eric Foner  
Philip Foner  
Carole Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds.  
Herbert Gutman and Donald Bell, eds.  
Bruce Laurie

Jeremy Brecher  
Thomas Dublin  
Eric Foner  
Philip Foner  
Carole Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds.  
Herbert Gutman and Donald Bell, eds.  
Bruce Laurie

"To Toil the Life-long Day:" American Women at Work 1780-1980  
The New England Working Class and the New Labor History  
Working People of Philadelphia, 1800-1850

In addition, there will be a packet of photocopies for you to purchase at Kinkos (620 University Avenue). Copies will also be on reserve at the College Library. These readings are marked by the letter "P".

There will be two papers and a final exam in this course. Each paper will be approximately 6-8 pages long; the first paper will be due on Thursday October 8th and the second will be due on Thursday November 12th. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam will be on Friday, December 18th. Papers are to be turned in the day they are due in class at the beginning of the period; there will be no extensions for late papers.
Sept. 3  Introduction: Work and Workers in America

Sept. 8  Early Labor Problems and the "Protestant Work Ethic"
reading: Edmund Morgan, "The Labor Problem at Jamestown, 1607-1618" (p)

Sept. 10  A World of Farmers, Artisans, and Slaves: Labor in Colonial America


Sept. 15  American Workers, the Revolution, and the Constitution

Sept. 17  Masters, Journeymen, and the Transformation of the Urban Working Class

Sept. 22  The Development of Labor Politics
reading: Laurie, Part II

Sept. 24  Religion, Middle Class Reform, and Working Class Activism
reading: Laurie, Parts III, IV, and V

Sept. 29  Industrialization

: Thomas Dublin, Farm to Factory, pp. 1-36

Oct. 1  Workers and the Mechanized Factory System
reading: Dublin, pp. 39-191

Oct. 6  The Options for Women Workers
readings: Carol Lasser, "The World's Dread Laugh: Singlehood and Service in Nineteenth Century Boston," in Gutman and Bell, pp. 72-89

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Temperance, Nativism and the Working Class Debate over Slavery</td>
<td><strong>Eric Foner, Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War</strong>, pp. 57-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>The Union and Unionism: White Workers and the Civil War</td>
<td><strong>David Montgomery, Beyond Equality: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872</strong>, pp. 90-113 (p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Emancipation and the Black Worker</td>
<td><strong>Eric Foner, pp. 97-127</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>The Labor Uprising of 1877</td>
<td><strong>Jeremy Brecher, Strike, chapter 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>: <strong>Leon Fink, &quot;Politics as Social History: A Case Study of Class Conflict and Political Development in Nineteenth Century New England,&quot; in Gutman and Bell, pp. 251-269</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>The Growth of the Immigrant Labor Force</td>
<td><strong>Eric Foner, pp. 150-200</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Anarchism and Socialism</td>
<td><strong>Philip Foner, chapter 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>The Crusade for the Eight Hour Day</td>
<td><strong>Brecher, chapter 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>: <strong>Philip Foner, chapters 6-8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Trade Unions and the American Federation of Labor</td>
<td><strong>Philip Foner, chapters 9, 12, 19, 25</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Clerks and the Changing Nature of Clerical Work</td>
<td><strong>Margery Davies, &quot;Woman's Place is at the Typewriter: The Feminization of the Clerical Labor Force&quot; (p)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Salesworkers and the Commercial Revolution</td>
<td><strong>Susan P. Benson, &quot;'The Customer Ain't God': The Work Culture of Department-Store Saleswomen, 1890-1940&quot; (p)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Race, Regionalism and American Workers in the Late Nineteenth Century</td>
<td><strong>Philip Foner, chapters 4, 13, 23</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nov. 24  Machine in the Garden: Farm Labor and the Mechanization of Agriculture  
reading: Nancy Osterud, "'She Helped Me Hay It as Good as a Man': Relations Among Women and Men in an Agricultural Community" in Groneman and Norton, pp. 87-97  
        : Philip Foner, chapters 20-22

Nov. 26  THANKSGIVING

Dec. 1   Urban Workers, Urban Development, and Urban Politics  
reading: to be announced

Dec. 3   Mass Culture and the Struggle Over Working Class Leisure  
reading: Roy Rosenzweig, "Middle Class Parks and Working Class Play: The Struggle Over Recreational Space in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1870-1910" in Gutman and Bell, pp. 214-230  

Dec. 8   Crises of the 1890s  
reading: Alexander Keyssar, "Unemployment and the Labor Movement in Massachusetts, 1870-1916" in Gutman and Bell, pp. 233-250  
        : Philip Foner, chapter 16

Dec. 10  The Great Strikes: Homestead and Pullman  
reading: Brecher, chapter 3  
        : Philip Foner, chapters 14, 17-18

Dec. 15  Labor and the Emergence of American Imperialism  
reading: Philip Foner, chapters 26-27