This course will explore the history of work, workers and working class organization in twentieth century America. We will focus on how working men and women have shaped, and in turn have been shaped by, socio-economic and technological change both in and out of the workplace. We will discuss a wide variety of issues including: workers’ perceptions of major historical events (such as the World Wars and the Depression), workers’ attitudes towards new modes of production (such as scientific management, the assembly line, computers, and automation), the organized labor movement and its relationship to twentieth century politics and government, and the crucial roles played by race and gender and ethnicity in shaping modern working class culture.

The following books are required reading for the course. They are available for purchase at the University Bookstore; they are also on reserve at the College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

- Eileen Boris and Nelson Lichtenstein, eds., *Major Problems in the History of American Workers*
- Jeremy Brecher, *Strike*
- David Brody, *Workers in Industrial America*
- Jacqueline Jones, *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow*
- Alice Kessler-Harris, *Out to Work*

There will be two papers and a take home final exam in this course. Each paper will be approximately 6-8 pages long; the first paper will be due on Thursday, February 18th and the second will be due on Thursday, April 1st. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam will be do on Sunday, May 9th. 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.

**Tues, Jan. 19**  
Introduction: American Workers and the Twentieth Century

**Thurs. Jan. 21**  
"Rationalizing" the Workplace: Workers, Scientific Management and Welfare Capitalism  
Tues. Jan. 26  
Workers and the Progressive Era: Child Labor, Industrial Health and Safety, and Protective Legislation
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 412-415
Foster Rhea Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky, Labor in America, pp. 190-196
Alice Kessler-Harris, Out to Work, ch. 7

Thurs. Jan. 28  
Socialists, Conservative Craftsmen and Militant Women: Workers' Response to the Early Twentieth Century
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 231-235
Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 175-190, 196-199
Kessler-Harris, ch. 6

Tues. Feb. 2  
The I.W.W. and Radical Syndicalism
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 235-239
Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 12

Thurs. Feb. 4  
"Fordism," the Assembly Line, and American Workers
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 333-344

Tues. Feb. 9  
Workers and the First World War
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 177-181
Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 218-220

Thurs. Feb. 11  
1919 and the Rumblings of Revolution
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 172-174
Jeremy Brecher, Strike, ch. 4
Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 220-232

Tues. Feb. 16  
Workers and the Myth of the Prosperous 1920s
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 233-250
Kessler-Harris, ch. 8

Thurs. Feb. 18  
Hard Times: Workers' Lives in the Great Depression
Paper Due
reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 250-254
Kessler-Harris, pp. 250-258

Tues. Feb. 23  
The New Deal, Workers, and Labor Law
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 415-423
Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 15
Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow, ch. 6
Kessler-Harris, pp. 258-272
Zieger, pp. 26-41

Thurs. Feb. 25  
Radicalism, Industrial Unionism, and the CIO
reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 362-372
Brecher, ch. 5
David Brody, Workers in Industrial America, pp. 82-119
Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 273-312
Zieger, pp. 41-61


Thurs. Apr. 1  Black Workers, White Unions and the Civil Rights Movement  reading:  Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 475-486  Jones, ch. 8  Zieger, pp. 174-182

Paper Due


Thurs. Apr. 15  Harvest of Shame: The Enduring Problem of Migrant Workers  reading:  Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 181-190, 214-227


Tues. Apr. 27  New Immigrants in the Contemporary American Workplace  reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 596-597, 673-681


Tues. May 4  Darkness on the Edge of Town: Class and Culture in Contemporary America

Thurs. May 6  The Future for American Workers  reading: Boris and Lichtenstein, pp. 600-608