This graduate reading seminar explores the meaning of work in the United States and how that meaning changed over the past century. In so doing, it shadows the emergence and development of the field of Labor and Working-Class History itself, starting with the questions of race, citizenship and gender that were raised by emancipation, industrialization, and migration at the close of the 19th-century and ending with related questions provoked by the global political and economic transformations of the late 20th-century. This is not an historiographical survey, but rather a directed reading of the most recent works in the field. Readings have been selected not only because they chart innovative paths toward future study, but also because they engage older scholarship in interesting ways.

Seminar meetings are organized around an assigned book, which is coupled with an additional book or article on a related topic. All students are expected to read the assigned book before each meeting and come to class prepared to discuss that book in relation to other course material. On two class periods, each student will also write a short review of the assigned book. In addition, each student will choose two weeks in which they will provide an oral introduction to the assigned book by situating it within a historiographical context that includes the additional book and other books or articles on related subjects. The final assignment for the course will be a 20 to 30 page paper that elaborates an historiographical question raised by two or more of the weekly readings. Alternatively, students may choose to write a paper based on primary research into a theme related to the course material.

Evaluation:

- Attendance and participation in seminar: 20%
- Introduction and leadership of two seminars: 20%
- Two Book Reviews: 20%
- Final Paper: 40%

Required Reading: There are thirteen required books for this course. They can be purchased at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St. (257-7888). Most are available in paperback and students should purchase used copies where they are
available. Reserve copies are also available for 3 hour loan at College Library. (All articles are available through JSTOR).


**Week 1: January 26 Introduction**

**Week 2: February 2 Defining Free Labor**

**Required Reading:** Rebecca J. Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba After Slavery* (Harvard University Press, 2005)


**Week 3: February 9 Posing “the Class Problem”**

**Introduction by Trudy Fredericks and Pam Conners**
**Required Reading:** James Green, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America* (Pantheon Books, 2006)


**Week 4: February 16  Race and Class**

*Introduction by Paul Heideman and Crystal Moten*

**Required Reading:** Francille Rusan Wilson, *The Segregated Scholars: Black Social Scientists and the Creation of Black Labor Studies, 1890-1950* (University of Virginia Press, 2006)


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**Havens Center Speaker**

**Lois Weis** (Graduate School of Education, University of Buffalo)

**UNEQUAL OUTCOMES: THE PRODUCTION OF INEQUALITY IN NEW ECONOMIC TIMES**

“Re-thinking the Intersections of Race, Class and Gender: Tracking the Making of the New White Working Class in the Final Quarter of the Twentieth Century,”

Tuesday, February 20, 4:00 pm

“Reflections on the Utility of Longitudinal Ethnography: Understanding Class as ‘Nested’ Production,”

Wednesday, February 21, 4:00 pm

Public Seminar,

Thursday, February 22, 12:20 pm

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**Week 5: February 23  Nation and Class**


Week 6: March 2  Region, Class and Culture

Introduction by Charles Hughes and Phil Glende


Week 7: March 9  Work and Identity

Introduction by Jennifer Holland and Pam Conners

Required Reading: Colleen O’Neill, Working the Navajo Way: Labor and Culture in the Twentieth Century (University Press of Kansas, 2005)


Week 8: March 16  Gender and Class

Introduction by Jennifer Kaufmann-Buhler and Phil Glende

Required Reading: Alice Kessler-Harris, In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th Century America (Oxford University Press, 2001)


Havens Center Speaker

Nancy Maclean, History, Northwestern University

RACE AND REGION IN THE MAKING OF THE MODERN RIGHT
“Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace”
Tuesday, March 20, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21, 4:00 pm  
Public Seminar: “Neo-Confederacy vs. the New Deal: The Regional Utopia of the Modern American Right”  
Thursday, March 22, 12:20 pm

**Week 9: March 23**  **Work and the Welfare State**

**Introduction by Dave Blinka and Charles Hughes**


**Week 10: March 30**  **No Seminar**

Organization of American Historians Meeting, Minneapolis

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**Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium**

*University of Iowa*  
April 6-8  

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**Week 11: April 13**  **Work and Class**

**Introduction by Jennifer Kaufmann-Buhler and Crystal Moten**

**Required Reading:** Daniel Walkowitz, *Working with Class: Social Workers and the Politics of Middle-Class Identity* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999)

**Additional Reading:** Stephanie Shaw, *What a Woman Ought to Be and Do: Black Professional Women Workers During the Jim Crow Era* (University of Chicago Press, 1996)

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**Havens Center Seminar**

*Glenda Gilmore*, Department of History, Yale University  
“When Jim Crow Met Karl Marx”  
Tuesday, April 17, 4:00 pm  
“The Nazis and Dixie: African Americans and Fascism”  
Wednesday, April 18, 4:00 pm  
Public Seminar: “Guerrillas in the Good War”  
Thursday, April 19, 12:20 pm

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**Week 12: April 20**  **The Right to Work**
Introduction by Trudy Fredericks and Jennifer Holland

Required Reading: Nancy MacLean, Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace (Harvard University Press, 2006)


Week 13: April 27   Work and Empire

Introduction by David Blinks and Paul Heideman

Required Reading: Catherine Ceniza Choy, Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History. (Duke University Press. 2003)


Wisconsin Labor History Association
Dinner with Greg Grandin
Friday, April 27
“Labor and US Foreign Policy: From the Cold War to the War on Terror”
Saturday, April 28, 9am-3pm, Union South

Week 14: May 4   Work and Service

Introduction by Bridget Collins

Required Reading: Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence (University of California Press, 2001)

Additional Reading: Dorothy Sue Cobble, ”’A Spontaneous Loss of Enthusiasm’: Workplace Feminism and the Transformation of Women’s Service Jobs in the 1970s,” International Labor and Working-Class History 56 (October 1999): 23-44.

Havens Center Seminar
Ira Katznelson, Political Science and History, Columbia University
ON JIM CROW AND THE LIBERAL TRADITION
“When Affirmative Action was White”
Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 pm
“Southern Nation: Did a ‘Solid South’ Shape American Political Development?”
Wednesday, May 9, 4:00 pm
Public Seminar
Thursday, May 10, 12:20 pm

Week 15: May 11  A New Labor Movement?

Introduction by Bridget Collins

