

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1987-88

History 407

American Labor History, 1607-1900

Professor Zonderman  
5213 Humanities Building  
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2-4 p.m.  
263-1972  
263-1800

Tues. and Thurs. 11-12:15 p.m.  
1101 Humanities

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	<u>Strike</u>
Thomas Dublin	<u>Farm to Factory: The Mill Experience and Women's Lives</u>
Eric Foner	<u>Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War</u>
Philip Foner	<u>History of the Labor Movement in the United States, volume 2</u>
Carole Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds.	<u>"To Toil the Live-long Day:" American Women at Work 1780-1980</u>
Herbert Gutman and Donald Bell, eds.	<u>The New England Working Class and the New Labor History</u>
Bruce Laurie	<u>Working People of Philadelphia, 1800-1850</u>

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  
reading: Gary Kulik, "Dams, Fish, and Farmers: The Defense of Public Rights in Eighteenth Century Rhode Island," in Gutman and Bell, eds. The New England Working Class and the New Labor History, pp. 187-214  
: Laurel Ulrich, "Housewife and Gadder: Themes of Self-Sufficiency and Community in Eighteenth Century New England," in Groneman and Norton, eds. "To Toil the Live-long Day", pp. 21-35
- Sept. 15 American Workers, the Revolution, and the Constitution  
reading: Alfred E. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hughes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the Revolution," in Gutman and Bell, pp. 3-72.
- Sept. 17 Masters, Journeymen, and the Transformation of the Urban Working Class  
reading: Bruce Laurie, Working People of Philadelphia, 1800-1850, Part I
- 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  
reading: Jonathan Prude, "The Social System of the Early New England Textile Mills: A Case Study, 1812-1840" in Gutman and Bell, pp. 90-128  
: 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  
: Mary Blewett, "The Sexual Division of Labor and the Artisan Tradition in Early Industrial Capitalism: The Case of New England Shoemaking, 1780-1860" in Groneman and Norton, pp. 35-47

- Oct. 8            Temperance, Nativism and the Working Class Debate over Slavery  
paper due        reading: Eric Foner, Politics and Ideology in the Age of the  
Civil War, pp. 57-76
- Oct. 13          Poor Whites and Black Slaves: Labor in the Antebellum South  
                  reading: Christie Farnbam, "Sapphire? The Issue of Dominance  
                  in the Slave Family, 1830-1865," in Groneman and  
                  Norton, pp. 68-83
- Oct. 15          The Union and Unionism: White Workers and the Civil War  
                  reading: David Montgomery, Beyond Equality: Labor and the  
                  Radical Republicans, 1862-1872, pp. 90-113 (p)
- Oct. 20          Emancipation and the Black Worker  
                  reading: Eric Foner, pp. 97-127
- Oct. 22          The Labor Uprising of 1877  
                  reading: Jeremy Brecher, Strike, chapter 1
- Oct. 27          The Knights of Labor  
                  reading: Philip Foner, History of the Labor Movement in the  
                  United States, chapters 3, 5, 11  
                  : Leon Fink, "Politics as Social History: A Case Study  
                  of Class Conflict and Political Development in  
                  Nineteenth Century New England," in Gutman and Bell,  
                  pp. 251-269
- Oct. 29          The Growth of the Immigrant Labor Force  
                  reading: Eric Foner, pp. 150-200
- Nov. 3            Anarchism and Socialism  
                  reading: Philip Foner, chapter 2
- Nov. 5            The Crusade for the Eight Hour Day  
                  reading: Brecher, chapter 2  
                  : Philip Foner, chapters 6-8
- Nov. 10          Trade Unions and the American Federation of Labor  
                  reading: Philip Foner, chapters 9, 12, 19, 25
- Nov. 12          Clerks and the Changing Nature of Clerical Work  
paper due        reading: Margery Davies, "Woman's Place is at the Typewriter:  
                  The Feminization of the Clerical Labor Force" (p)
- Nov. 17          Salesworkers and the Commercial Revolution  
                  reading: Susan P. Benson, "'The Customer Ain't God': The Work  
                  Culture of Department-Store Saleswomen, 1890-1940" (p)
- Nov. 19          Race, Regionalism and American Workers in the Late Nineteenth  
                  Century  
                  reading: Philip Foner, chapters 4, 13, 23

- 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  
                : Kathy Peiss, "Gender Relations and Working Class  
Leisure: New York City, 1880-1920," in Groneman and  
Norton, pp. 98-111
- 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