## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON Department of History Semester II, 1988-89

History 408 American Labor History, 1900-Present

Professor Zonderman 5213 Humanities Building

Office Hours: Tues. 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Thurs. 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

263-1972 263-1800

Lectures: Tues. and Thurs., 2:25-3:40 p.m.

1121 Humanities Building

(there will also be a one hour required discussion section each week)

This course will explore the history of work, workers and working class culture 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.

Jeremy Brecher, <u>Strike</u>
David Brody, <u>Workers in Industrial America</u>
Foster Rhea Dulles & Melvyn Dubofsky, <u>Labor in America</u>: A <u>History</u>
(4th edition)

Jacqueline Jones, <u>Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow</u>
Alice Kessler-Harris, <u>Out to Work</u>
Studs Terkel, <u>Working</u>
Robert Zieger, <u>American Workers, American Unions, 1920-1985</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, February 23rd and the second will be due on Thursday, April 6th. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam will be on Wednesday, May 17th. 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. 24	Introduction: American Workers and the Twentieth Century
Thurs. Jan. 28	"Rationalizing" the Workplace: Workers, Scientific Management and Welfare Capitalism reading: David Montgomery, Workers' Control in America, pp. 32-47 (p)
Tues, Jan. 31	Workers and the Progressive Era: Child Labor, Industrial Health and Safety, and Protective Legislation reading: Foster Rhea Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky, <u>Labor in America</u> , pp. 190-196  Alice Kessler-Harris, Out to Work, ch. 7
Thurs. Feb. 2	Socialists, Conservative Craftsmen and Militant Women: Workers' Response to the Early Twentieth Century reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 175-190, 196-199 Kessler-Harris, ch. 6
Tues. Feb. 7	The I.W.W. and Radical Syndicalism reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 12
Thurs, Feb. 9	"Fordism," the Assembly Line, and American Workers reading: Stephen Meyer, <u>The Five Dollar Day: Labor Management and Social Control in the Ford Motor Company</u> , pp. 9-65 (p)
Tues. Feb. 14	Workers and the First World War reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 215-220
Thurs. Feb. 16	1919 and the Rumblings of Revolution reading: Jeremy Brecher, <u>Strike</u> , ch. 4 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 220-232
Tues. Feb. 21	Workers and the Myth of the Prosperous 1920s reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 233-250 Kessler-Harris, ch. 8
Thurs. Feb. 23 Paper Due	Hard Times: Workers' Lives in the Great Depression
	reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 250-254 Kessler-Harris, pp. 250-258 Robert Zieger, <u>American Workers, American</u> Unions, 1920-1985, pp. 10-25
Tues. Feb. 28	The New Deal, Workers, and Labor Law reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 15 Jacqueline Jones, <u>Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow</u> , ch. 6 Kessler-Harris, pp. 258-272 Zieger, pp. 26-41

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Thurs, Mar. 2	Radicalism, Industrial Unionism, and the CIO reading: Brecher, ch. 5 David Brody, Workers in Industrial America, pp. 82-119 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 273-312 Zieger, pp. 41-61
Tues. Mar. 7	Workers and the Second World War: Mobilizing the Labor Force reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 312-334 Zieger, pp. 62-76, 80-99
Thurs. Mar. 9	Workers and the Second World War: Women and the Wartime Economy reading: Jones, pp. 232-256 Kessler-Harris, ch. 10 Studs Terkel, The Good War, pp. 105-119 (p) Zieger, pp. 76-80
Tues. Mar. 14	Workers in Post-War America: Was There a "Great Bargain"? reading: Brody, pp. 173-214 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 334-353 Zieger, pp. 100-114, 147-158
Thurs, Mar. 16	Workers in Post-War America: Labor, Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy reading: Brody, pp. 215-223, 229-255 Zieger, pp. 114-123, 182-192
Tues. Mar. 28	Working Class Culture in Post-War America: Were There Blue Collar Suburbs? reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 374-380 Zieger, pp. 137-147
Thurs. Mar. 30	White Collar Labor: A New Working Class? reading: Stanley Aronowitz, <u>False Promises</u> , ch. 6 (p) Studs Terkel, <u>Working</u> , pp. 448-462 Zieger, pp. 163-167
Tues. Apr. 4	American Labor and the Anti-Communist Purge reading: Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais, <u>Labor's Untold Story</u> , pp. 340-376 (p) Brody, pp. 223-228 Zieger, pp. 123-136
Thurs, Apr. 6 Paper Due	Black Workers, White Unions and the Civil Rights Movement reading: Philip Foner, Organized Labor and the Black Worker, pp. 397-424 (p) Jones, ch. 8 Zieger, pp. 174-182

Tues. Apr. 11	American Workers, the New Left and the War in Vietnam reading: Brecher, pp. 308-312 Terkel, pp. 463-468 Zieger, pp. 168-174
Thurs. Apr. 13	The Women's Movement and the Labor Movement reading: Kessler-Harris, ch. 11 Ruth Milkman, ed., Women, Work and Protest, pp. 280-322 (p)
Tues. Apr. 18	Union Bureaucracy, Corruption, Reformers and Insurgents reading: Brecher, ch. 8 Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 353-374 Zieger, pp. 158-163
Thurs. Apr. 20	Harvest of Shame: The Enduring Problem of Migrant Workers reading: Mark Day, Forty Acres: Cesar Charez and the Farm Workers, pp. 61-97, 111-118, 140- 151, 161-168 (p) Terkel, pp. 30-38
Tues. Apr. 25	The Third Industrial Revolution: Automation and Industrial Labor reading: Thomas Brooks, <u>Toil and Trouble</u> , chs. 20-21 (p) Terkel, pp. 221-265, 515-521
Thurs. Apr. 27	The Third Industrial Revolution: Computers and Clerical Work reading: Robert Howard, Brave New Workplace, pp. 68-90 (p) Terkel, pp. 344-355, 521-525
Tues. May 2	New Immigrants in the Contemporary American Workplace reading: Terkel, pp. 658-662 Elizabeth Weiner and Hardy Green, "A Stitch in Our Time: New York's Hispanic Garment Workers in the 1980s" (p)
Thurs. May 4	The Reagan Revolution and the Labor Movement reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, ch. 21 Jones, epilogue Zieger, pp. 193-199
Tues. May 9	Darkness on the Edge of Town: Class and Culture in Contemporary America reading: Terkel, pp. 396-405
Thurs. May 11	The Future for American Workers

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TOPICS FOR SECOND PAPER

Professor Zonderman

Choose one of the following three topics, and write an essay of 6-8 pages. Papers are due, at the beginning of lecture, on Thursday, April 6th.

- 1. Was World War II a major turning point for the US labor movement? Did the wartime experiences and government policies significantly reshape organized labor? In order to answer these questions, you should summarize the state of the labor movement immediately prior to the war; describe the changes in government policy, composition of the workforce, and union strategies during the war; and comment on how these changes shaped the labor movement in the immediate post-war period (through the 1940s).
- "The so-called Great Bargain of the 1940s was actually the culmination of trends in labor-management relations that originated in the 1920s and 1930s."
  - Evaluate this statement. Is it an accurate assessment of American labor history in the mid-20th century? In evaluating this statement, make sure that you explain what the characteristics of labor-management relations were in the 1920s and 1930s, and whether or not those characteristics were embodied in the Great Bargain of the 1940s.
- 3. How did the anti-Communism of the labor movement in the later 1940s grow out of the anti-radicalism of the 1920s and 1930s? Why was the anti-Communist purge in the post-war era so intense? Did it reflect long-term internal tensions within the labor movement? Or, was it a product of external pressures from business and government?

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History 408

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## Topics for First Paper

Choose one of the following three paper topics, and write an essay of 6-8 pages. Papers are due in class at the beginning of lecture on Thursday, February 23.

1. The year 1919 saw the largest strike wave in American history. Were these strikes a reflection of the radicalism in the American working class? Or, were these strikes simply an attempt to resolve problems with new technology and management in the workplace?

In your answer you should explain when these strikes occurred, where they occurred, how they were conducted, and how they were related to the early 20th century labor movement.

2. "One of the ironies of the early 20th century American labor movement is that even as millions of unskilled and immigrant workers were filling the nation's mass production industries, the AFL craft unions remained the predominant form of labor organization."

Evaluate this statement. Is it an accurate description of the American labor movement in the early 20th century? If so, why? If not, why not?

3. In the first two decades of the 20th century, the IWW, the AFL, and the Socialist Party all had significant working class followings; and yet, they consistently feuded among themselves. Which groups of workers were most likely to ally with each organization? What was the appeal of each organization to the workers who supported it? Were the divisions between these groups so large that they could not be overcome?