

**Sociology 925/History 929  
Labor Studies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Seminar Meetings:** Wednesday 11-1 (Humanities 5257)

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In the past half-century, the working-class in the United States has been transformed dramatically by the globalization of manufacturing, the rise of the service sector, changes in immigration patterns and women's increased reliance on wage work. This course examines how scholars have understood those changes and their impact on workers and their relationships to communities, unions and the state. 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 or set of articles. All students are expected to read the assigned materials 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 write a short review of the assigned readings. In addition, each student will choose two weeks in which they will introduce the readings by situating it within the existing literature on related subjects. The final assignment for the course will be a 20 to 30 page paper that elaborates a theoretical question raised by two or more of the weekly readings. Alternatively, students may choose to write a paper based on their own research into a theme related to the course material.

Four of the seminar meetings (2/25, 3/ 11, 4/11, & 4/15) are coordinated with open seminars sponsored by the Havens Center. Those events will take place in the Curti Lounge (5243 Humanities). Students should also plan to attend at least one of the two lectures given by each Havens Center visitor to the seminar. We have listed additional Havens Center events on the syllabus for your own interest.

**Evaluation:**

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

**Required Reading:** The following books are available for purchase at Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St. (257-7888). They are available in paperback, and used copies will be sold when possible. Copies will also be placed on reserve at College Library and the Social Science Library. All other readings will be posted to Learn@UW.

Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (Harvard U. Press, 2005)

Nancy MacLean, *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace* (Harvard U Press, 2006)

Dorothy Sue Cobble, *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America* (Princeton U. Press, 2005)

Bill Fletcher and Fernando Gapasin, *Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path toward Social Justice* (U of California Press, 2008)

Eric Arnesen, *The Black Worker: Race, Labor and Civil Rights Since Emancipation* (U of Illinois Press, 2007)

Ethel Brooks, *Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work* (U of MN Press, 2007)

Leon Fink, *The Maya of Morgantown: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South* (UNC Press, 2003)

Cowie, *Capital Moves: RCA's Seventy-Year Quest for Cheap Labor* (New Press 2001)

Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th-Century America* (Oxford U Press, 2002)

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton U. Press, 2004)

### **Class Schedule:**

January 21 Introduction

January 28 The Rise and Fall of American Labor

**Reading:** Lichtenstein, *State of the Union*

February 4 Re-Defining Labor

**Reading:** Scott, *Degrees of Freedom*  
Leslie A. Schwalm, "'Sweet Dreams of Freedom'," in Arnesen, *The Black Worker*

February 11 Re-Defining America

**Reading:** Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*

February 18 Work and Citizenship

**Reading:** Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity*  
Arnesen, "The Quicksands of Economic Insecurity," and Kelley, "Industrial Sentinels Confront the "Rabid Faction," in Arnesen, *The Black Worker*

**Written Assignment:** A one-paragraph description of your final paper topic

February 25 Envisioning a New Labor Movement

**Open Seminar** with Bill Fletcher, "The 2008 Elections and the Challenges for a Progressive Movement,"  
5243 Humanities

**Reading:** Fletcher and Gapasin, *Solidarity Divided*

**Haven Center Events**

Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path toward Social Justice

*Bill Fletcher Jr., American Federation of Government Employees*

“The Crisis of Organized Labor and Possibilities of Renewal”

Tuesday, February 24, 4pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

“Strangers in a Strange Land: African American-Immigrant Tensions and the Potential for Unity in the 21st Century”

Wednesday, February 25, 4pm, 8417 Social Science

March 4      Citizenship and Service

**Reading:** Evelyn Nakano Glenn, “From Servitude to Service Work: Historical Continuities in the Racial Division of Paid Reproductive Labor” *Signs*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Autumn, 1992), pp. 1-43

Hunter, “Work that Body,” and Blair, “‘We Must Live Anyhow’,” in Arnesen, *The Black Worker*

March 11     Labor and Globalization

**Open Seminar** with Ethel Brooks, “Production, Reproduction and Citizenship in Transnational Perspective,” 5243 Humanities

**Reading:** Brooks, *Unraveling the Garment Industry*

**Haven Center Events**

Productivity: Citizenship Claims, Power and the Gendered Everyday

*Ethel Brooks, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University*

“Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work”

Tuesday, March 10, 4pm, 206 Ingraham

“Missing Pakistanis: Gender, Citizenship and the War on Terror”

Wednesday, March 11, 4pm, 8417 Social Science

March 18     **Spring Break – No Seminar**

March 25     Labor and Feminism

**Reading:** Cobble, *The Other Women's Movement*

**Written Assignment:** A detailed outline of your final paper

**Haven Center Events**

Reconfiguring the American Polity through Latino Incorporation

*Gary Segura, Department of Political Science, Stanford University*

“Latino Political Incorporation and an Emerging Democratic Majority? Latinos in the 2008 Presidential Election”

Tuesday, March 24, 4pm, 206 Ingraham

"Immigration and Its Discontents: Evaluating the Cultural, Political, and Economic Arguments about Latin American Immigration on Their (De)Merits"

Wednesday, March 25, 4pm, 8417 Social Science

Open Seminar

Thursday, March 26, 12:20pm, 8108 Social Science

April 1 Capital and Globalization

**Open Seminar** with Jefferson Cowie, "From the Sit-Downs to Seattle and Beyond: RCA Workers and the Future of Global Labor," 5243 Humanities

**Reading:** Cowie, *Capital Moves*

**Haven Center Events**

"Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class:

*Jefferson Cowie, History, Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University*

"'No Time for Dreams': The Unmaking of the American Working Class in the 1970s"

Tuesday, March 31, 4pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

"In Search of the Postmodern Working Class"

Wednesday, April 1, 4pm, 8417 Social Science

April 8 Labor and Civil Rights

**Reading:** Remaining chapters of Arnesen, *The Black Worker*  
William P. Jones, "For the Night Cometh When No Man Can Work": Gender and the Politics of Employment in the Long Civil Rights Movement."

**Haven Center Events**

Transnational Migration from the Hispanic Caribbean

*Jorge Duany, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Puerto Rico*

"The Puerto Rican Diaspora: Changing Settlement Patterns and Cultural Identities"

Tuesday, April 7, 4 pm, 206 Ingraham

"The Dominican Diaspora: A Transnational Perspective"

Wednesday, April 8, 4 pm, 8417 Social Science

Open Seminar

Thursday, April 9, 12:20 pm, 8108 Social Science

April 15 Labor and Migration

**Open Seminar** with Marc Rodriguez, 5243 Humanities

**Reading:** “Reconsidering Modern Continental Migration, Community and Citizenship,” and “Migrants and Citizens: Mexican American Migrant Workers and the War on Poverty in an American City,” from *Repositioning North American Migration History: New Direction in Modern Continental Migration, Citizenship, and Community* (University of Rochester Press, 2004)

**Haven Center Events**

Reframing Topics in Mexican American History

*Marc Rodriguez, History and Law, University of Notre Dame*

"The Tejano Diaspora in Action: Texas, Wisconsin, and the Civil and Labor Rights Movement of the 1960s"  
Tuesday, April 14, 4 pm, 206 Ingraham

"The Jury Right in Comparative Context: Reconsidering Hernandez v. Texas"  
Wednesday, April 15, 4 pm, Lubar Commons (7200 Law School)

April 22      Labor and Immigration

**Reading:** Fink, *The Maya of Morgantown*

From Bomba to Reggaeton: The Socio-Sonic Circuitry of Caribbean Latino Music

*Raquel Rivera, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College*

“Reggaeton's Socio-Sonic Circuitry: From Jamaica and New York, to Panama, Puerto Rico and Beyond”  
Tuesday, April 21, 4pm, 206 Ingraham

“New York Bomba: Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and a Bridge Called Haiti”  
Wednesday, April 22, 4 pm, 8417 Social Science

Open Seminar  
Thursday, April 23, 12:20 pm, 8108 Social Science

April 29      Labor and Equality

**Reading:** Nancy MacLean, *Freedom is Not Enough*

The Diaspora Strikes Back: Cultural Challenges Of Transnational Communities

*Juan Flores, Latino Studies, New York University*

“Coming Home to Roost: Rethinking Diaspora and Cultural Remittances”  
Tuesday, April 28, 4 pm, 206 Ingraham Hall

“Caribeño Counterstream: Puerto Rican, Dominican and Cuban Diasporas on the Move”  
Wednesday, April 29, 4 pm, 8417 Social Science

Open Seminar  
Thursday, April 30, 12:20 pm, 8108 Social Science

May 6      Wrap-up