

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

GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR IN AMERICAN LABOR HISTORY

History 902

Class Hours: Mon. 1-3 p.m., 2125 Humanities

Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 2-4 p.m.

Professor Zonderman

5213 Humanities Bldg.

263-1972/263-1800

This seminar will focus on the research and writing of an original scholarly paper on some aspect of American labor history. We will begin the semester by examining the rich printed and manuscript collections at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (The Society's archival holdings in labor history are judged by many to be the finest in the world.) Then we will spend several weeks reading and discussing some of the more innovative recent scholarship in the field. The texts selected all focus on the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Thus, they complement the periods in which the Society's holdings are strongest. However, these texts are intended to be only illustrations of the kinds of opportunities available to scholars studying working class culture. Students should feel free to select whatever topic and time period interests them. We will discuss possible ideas for papers in class, and each student must speak to the instructor about his/her project before committing anything to paper.

The latter portion of the seminar will be devoted to students presenting their research in three successive stages for the class as a whole to constructively critique. Each student will first write a brief (2-3 page) prospectus, with an accompanying bibliography, outlining the major issues to be addressed in the completed study.

Then, students will write a draft of their paper to be reviewed by the entire class. And, based on the discussion of the draft, each student will then have the opportunity to revise the manuscript into its final form for a concluding evaluation. Details about the procedures and scheduling of these various presentations will be forthcoming as the semester proceeds.

The three required books for this course are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. They are also on reserve at Room 1191, College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

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| Sept. 14 | Introduction to the Seminar |
| Sept. 21* | Tour of printed sources at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin -- with James Danky |
| Sept. 28* | Tour of manuscript sources at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin -- with Harry Miller |

- Oct. 5 reading: Roy Rosenzweig, Eight Hours for What We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1870-1920
- Oct. 12 reading: Alexander Keyssar, Out of Work: The First Century of Unemployment in Massachusetts
- Oct. 19 reading: Christopher Tomlins, The State and the Unions: Labor Relations, Law, and the Organized Labor Movement in America, 1880-1960
- Oct. 26 }
Nov. 2 } Prospectus and Bibliography - each student will make his/her prospectus and bibliography available for the entire seminar to review by Friday, 9 a.m., Oct. 23 or Oct. 30, depending on which day the presentation is assigned; a 10 minute oral presentation in class should accompany each written prospectus.
- Nov. 9 }
16 }
23 } Presentation of Drafts - each student should make his/her draft available for the entire seminar to review by Friday, 9 a.m., Nov. 6 or 13 or 20, depending on which day the draft is assigned; students may make a brief oral introduction to their paper, if they wish, before it is discussed in class.
- Nov. 30 }
Dec. 7 }
14 } Presentation of Final Papers - each student should make his/her final paper available for the entire seminar to review by Friday, 9 a.m., Nov. 27 (we may make some alternative arrangement for this particular day because of the Thanksgiving recess), Dec. 4 or 11, depending on which day the final paper is assigned; again, students may make a few brief introductory remarks to their final study, if they wish, before it is critiqued by the seminar.