# ATA 686: Work and Workers in Comparative Historical Perspective

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This course deals with the history and theory of labor process and labor movement in capitalist societies. Main areas explored include the historical changes in the structure of employment and patterns of work, meaning and composition of the working class, labor unions and the challenges they currently face in different societies. Although the course is not explicitly on Turkish labor history, the students will be required to write a paper on a topic pertaining to workers, working life and the labor movement in Turkey.

Course evaluation is based on a paper (around 15 pages) and a take-home final examination. Contribution to class discussions around the required readings is important.

Office hours: Monday 11-12.30, Social Policy Forum or by appointment.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE**

#### **I. Introduction** (week 1)

# II. Free Labor and Capitalist Exploitation (week 2)

K. Marx (1953), *Grundrisse: Introduction to the Critique of Political Economy*, Middlesex, England: Penguin, 1973, pp.483-515.

K.Marx (1887), *Capital*, Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1974, v.1, pp. 252-286 and 384-421.

K. Marx, Grundrisse, pp. 699-712.

K.Marx (1894), Capital, Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1974, v.3, pp. 818-820.

## III. Time, Work and Life under Capitalism

# Work in industry (week 3)

E.P.Thompson, "Time, Work Discipline and Industrial Capitalism" in E.P.Thompson, *Customs in Common*, London: Penguin, 1993, pp. 352-403.

S. Jordan, "From Grotesque Bodies to Useful Hands. Idleness, Industry and the Laboring Class", *Eighteenth Century Life*, v. 25, Fall 2001, pp. 62-79.

# Work in Industry and Beyond (week 4)

H. Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital*, New York and London: Monthly Review Press, 1974, pp. 3-41; 85-137.

R. Sennett, *The Corrosion of Character*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1998, pp. 32-63; 98-117.

### **IV. Working Class Experience: Perspectives beyond the Factory** (week 5)

E.P. Thompson, *Making of the English Working Class*, New York: Vintage Books, 1966, pp. 9-14.

E. R. Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982, pp. 354-383.

C. Joshi, "Introduction" in C. Joshi, *Lost Worlds: Indian Labour and Its Lost History*, London: Anthem press, 2005, pp. 1-14.

# V. Labor in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization

# Making of the *Precariat* (week 6)

G. Standing, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2011, pp. vii-viii; 1-89.

J. Willis, "Subcontracted Employment and its Challenge to Labour", *Labor Studies Journal*, December 2009.

# Work and Gender: Female Employment Today (week 7)

L. Prince Cooke, *Gender- Class Equality in Political Economies*, New York: Routledge, 2011; pp. 1-43.

A.Buğra and B. Yakut-Çakar, "Structural Change, Social Policy Environment and Female Employment: The Case of Turkey", *Development and Change*, v. 41, n.3, May 2010, pp. 517-538.

L. Salzinger, Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories, Berkeley: University of California Press, 200; pp. 5-185.

#### Workers on the Road (week 8)

C. Hahamovitch, "Creating the Perfect Immigrants: Guestworkers in the World in a Historical Perspective", *Labor History*, v. 44, 2003, pp. 69-94.

G. Standing, The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class, pp. 90-114.

## **Informal Employment and Organized Labor** (week 9)

A. Portes and W. Haller, "The Informal Economy", *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005, pp. 403-425.

D. Gallin, "Propositions on Trade Unions and Informal Employment in Times of Globalization", *Antipode*, 2001, pp. 531-549.

A.M. Özdemir, D. Erel, G. Yücesan-Özdemir, "Rethinking the informal labor market in Turkey: A possible politics for trade unions", *South East Europe Review*, v. 3, 2004, pp. 79-92.

# **Labor Movement Today: Unions and Beyond** (week 10)

M. Behrens, K. Hamann and R. Hurd, "Conceptualizing labor union revitalization" in C.M.Frege and J.Kelly (eds.), *Varieties of Unionism: Strategies for Union Revitalization in a Globalizing Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 11-29.

- B. Kus and Isik Ozel, "United we restrain, divided we rule: Neoliberal reforms and labor unions in Turkey and Mexico", *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, n. 11 (2010).
- T. Fougner and A. Kurtoglu, "Transnational Labor Solidarity and Social Movement Unionism: Insights from and beyond a women workers' strike in Turkey", *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 2010.

### **Student Presentations** (weeks 11-12)

### Some Political Perspectives on the Future of Work and Labor (week 13)

K. Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1944, pp. 130-177.

Buroway, "From Polanyi to Pollyanna: The False Optimism of Global Labor Studies", Global Labour Journal, v.1, n. 2 (2010)

- R. Munch, "Globalization and the Labour Movement: Challenges and Responses", *Global Labour Journal*, v.1, n.2 (2010).
- G. Standing, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, pp. 115-183.