ATA 686: Work and Workers in Comparative Historical Perspective
Fall 2015
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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, presented in class before being submitted in written form) and a take-home final examination. Contribution to class discussions around the required readings and student presentations is important.

Office hours: Tuesday 14-15; Wednesday 14.30-15.30, Social Policy Forum (Kuzey Park) or by appointment.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction (week 1)

II. Free Labor and Capitalist Exploitation (week 2)


**III. Time, Work and Life under Capitalism**

**Work in Industry** (week 3)


**Work in Industry and beyond** (week 4)


**Work Ethic and Workplace Accidents: Changing Approaches to Regulation** (week 5)


**IV. Labor in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization**

**Making of the Precariat** (week 6)

 Worlds of Labor Unmade and Remade (week 7)


 Workers on the Road (week 8)


 Immigrant Workers, Informal Employment and New Perspectives on Labor and Labor Organizations (week 9)


 Student Presentations (weeks 10-11-12)

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

