

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)

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, volume 1, pp. 252-286 and 384-421.

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

K.Marx (1894), *Capital*, Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1974, volume 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.

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

John. F. Witt, “The Transformation of Work and the Law of Workplace Accidents, 1842-1910”, Yale Law School Faculty Scholarship Series, Paper 400, 1998.

Garry C. Gray, “The Responsibilization Strategy of Health and Safety”, *British Journal of Criminology*, v.49, 2009, pp.326-342

IV. 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.

Worlds of Labor Unmade and Remade (week 7)

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

E. Friedman and Ching Kwan Lee, "Remaking the World of Chinese labor: A 30-Year Retrospective", *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, vol. 48, n.3, September 2010, pp. 507-533.

Workers on the Road (week 8)

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

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.

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

R. Milkman, "Immigrant Workers, precarious Work and the US Labor Movement", *Globalizations*, v. 8, n.3, 2011

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

J Breman and M. van Linden, "Informalizing the Economy: The Return of the Social Question at a Global Level, *Development and Change*, Special Issue, v. 45, 2014, pp. 920-940.

Student Presentations (weeks 10-11-12)

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, 2010, pp. 301-313.

J. B. Silver and S.S Karatasli, “Historical Dynamics of Capitalism and labor Movements” in D. della Porta and M. Diani (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Labor Movements*, Oxford University Press, 2015.

G. Standing, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, pp. 115-183.