

ATA 686: Work and Workers in Comparative Historical Perspective

Fall 2016

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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 work, and the challenges workers and labor organizations currently face in different societies. The discussion of the readings on these issues will be complemented with four films directly relevant for the subject matter of the course.

Course evaluation will be based a) on a paper presenting an overview of the world of labor in contemporary Turkey and discussing issues such as unemployment and insecurity of employment, informal labor, gender and work, immigrant labor based on data from national and international sources (i.e. OECD and ILO), policy documents and secondary sources (see the readings for week 9), and b) a paper discussing the four films by situating them in the context of the course readings and class discussions. The first paper will be handed in the last week of the classes and the second one week later.

Contribution to class discussions around the required readings and following the films is also 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.

Moral Dimension of Work (week 5)

W. Beveridge, *Full Employment in a Free Society*, 1944, pp. 18-23

R. Sennett, *The Culture of the New Capitalism*, chapter 2

A. Sayer, “Class, Moral Worth and Recognition”, *Sociology*, 39 (5), 2005

Work Today (week 6)

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

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.

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

Workers on the Road (week 7)

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.

A.M. Bagchi, “Immigrants, Morality and Neoliberalism”, *Development and Change*, 39 (2), 2008.

Some Political Perspectives on the Future of Work and Labor (week 8)

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.

R. Munch, “Globalization and the Labour Movement: Challenges and Responses”, *Global Labour Journal*, v.1, n.2 (2010).

L. Beneria, “Globalization, Gender and the Davos Man”, *Feminist Economics*, 5 (3), 1999.

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

Sketches from the Working Life in Turkey (week 9)

F. Şenses, “Labour Market Response to Structural Adjustment and Institutional Pressures”, *METU Studies in Development*, 21 (3), 1994

A. Çelik, “Turkey’s New Labour Regime under the Justice and Development Party in the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century: Authoritarian Flexibilization”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 51 (4), 2015.

F. Adaman, A. Buğra, A. Insel, “Societal Context of Labor Union Strategy: The Case of Turkey”, *Labor Studies Journal*, 34 (2), 2009.

A.İçduygu, *The Labour Dimensions of Irregular Migration in Turkey*, Research Reports 2006/05, European University Institute, RSCAS, 2006.

A. Buğra, “Revisiting the Wollstonecraft Dilemma in the Context of Conservative Liberalism: The Case of Female Employment in Turkey”, *Social Politics*, 21 (1), 2014.

Film presentations

The Promised Land (1975) by Andrzej Wajda (week 10),

The Working Class Goes to Haven (1971) by Elio Petri (week 11)

It’s A Free World (2007) by Ken Loach (week 12)

Rosetta (1999) by Jean Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne (week 13)

Recommended readings on:

The question of free labor

J. Banaji, “The Fictions of Free Labour, Contract, Coercion and So-Called Unfree Labour”, *Historical Materialism*, 11 (3), 2003.

T. Brass, “Why Unfree Labour is Not So-called: The Fictions of Jairus Banaji”, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 31 (1), 2003.

Work accidents

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 Work accidents

J. Kerrisay and J. Schunhrke, “Life Chances: Labor Rights, International Institutions and Worker Fatalities in the Global South, *Social Forces Advance* Access July 19, 2016 (doi: 10.1093/sf/sow 050)

Bogazici Üniversitesi Soma Araştırma Raporu, *Geliyorum Diyen Facia*, 2015, pp. 1-135

Moral and emotional dimension

R. Sennett, *Hidden Injuries of Class*,

Demet Dinler, *İşçinin Varlık Problemi*, İstanbul: Metis Yayınları, 2014
Industrial relations in Europe and a historical overview on Turkey

Industrial relations in Europe and a historical overview of the Turkish case

R. Hyman, “Three Scenarios for Industrial Relations in Europe”, *International Labour Review*, 154 (1), 2015.

T. Akan, “The Political Economy of Turkish Conservative Democracy as a governmental strategy of industrial relations between Islamism, neoliberalism and social democracy”, *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 32 (2), 2011.