

Course Description

This Bridge Experience course explores the rich history of work and workers in America from the pre-colonial era through the contemporary age. We will focus on a number of themes including the lasting legacies of slavery, the evolution of capitalism and its impact on working men and women, the emergence of worker consciousness and labor protest, racial and ethnic tensions that divided the shop floor and undermined working-class unity, and how workers have transformed American culture and politics. Ultimately, the course provides us with an opportunity to explore how contests over commercial and political power, worker struggles for economic and social justice, and competing identities played key roles in the tale of American labor history that continue to shape the contemporary United States.

Semester Goals

- * Become familiar with theories of class development in an American context.
- * Explore how slavery and capitalism worked as economic systems to alter worker lives.
- * Understand how race, gender, ethnicity, and other identities shaped worker experience.
- * Grasp how different laborers have battled for economic and political power over time.
- * Comprehend how international realities have transformed workers in the United States.
- * Locate contemporary labor struggles in a broader historical context.
- * Articulate and defend your own arguments using evidence from lectures and readings.
- * Learn how to gather and share historical evidence with a general audience.
- * Gain experience working with web design tools.

Course Requirements and Grading

All students will attend lectures, keep up with assigned readings, be prepared to participate in class, take a midterm and final examination, write one paper, and contribute

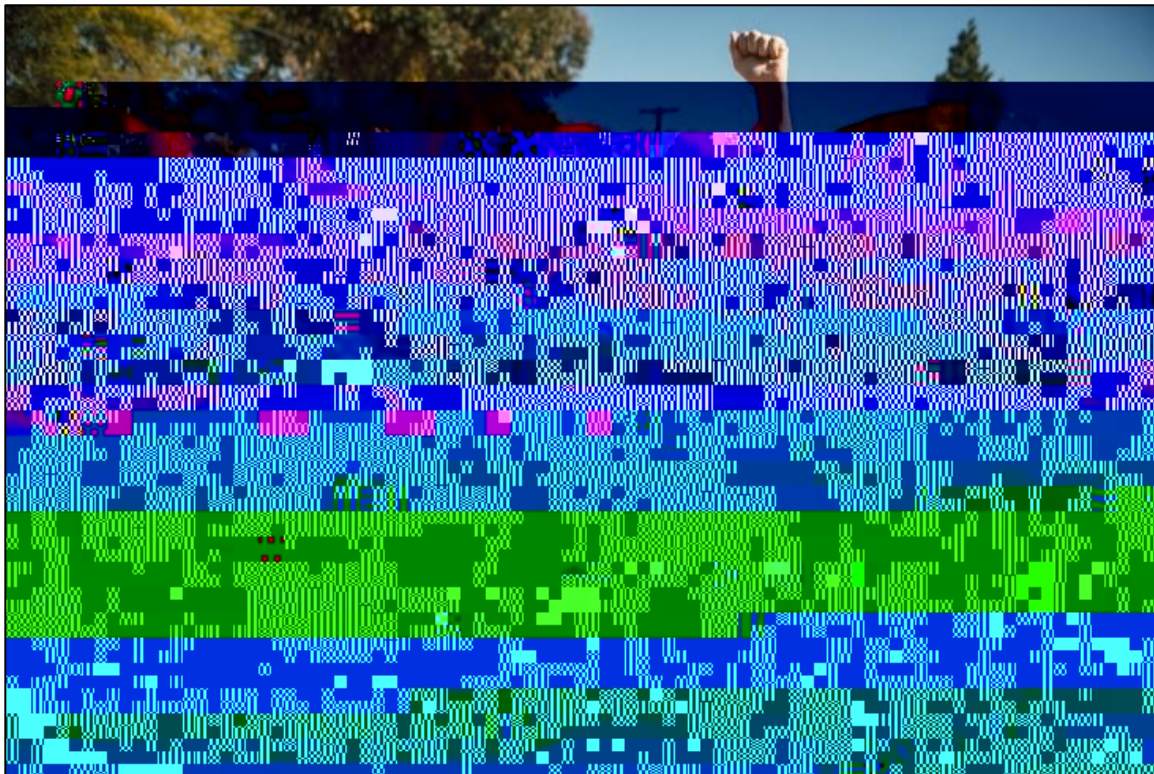
- Friday, October 22 – We will reserve course time to discuss our projects and how best to transform our historical dreams into digital realities.
- Monday, November 10 – We will present project status reports and discuss the rewards and challenges of finding sources and preparing them for the web.
- Wednesday, December 1, and Friday, December 3 – We will share our final projects with the class, your friends, and other people in town.
- Friday, December 10 – We will talk about the course’s larger themes; how studying American labor history can help us understand power, justice, and identity in America; and ponder ways to improve the archive.

Required Readings

The following books are required for the course and are available at The Skidmore Shop on the first floor of the Case College Center. You should complete all of the weekly reading by the date listed on the syllabus. Also note that readings marked with a star (*) are available on theSpring.

- Priscilla Murolo & A.B. Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: An Illustrated History of Labor in the United States* (New York: The New Press, 2018)
- Sophie White, *Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana* (Chap

and/or campus employment requirements without penalty. These accommodations should not reduce the overall expectations of a course nor unduly burden the student requesting accommodation. Faculty must permit students to take a makeup examination without any penalty if they have to miss an examination due to religious observances. Similarly, faculty must permit students to submit missed assignments by an agreed upon due date, without penalty. Although not required, the College highly recommends that students submit written notification of the pending religious observances at the start of the semester or at least one week before the date. As an option, students may use this form. Distributing the written notification during the first week of classes, campus employment, or the start of the athletic season gives students, faculty, coaches, or supervisors time to prepare for the absence. If a student, supervisor, coach, or faculty member feels the policy is being violated, they should contact the Dean of Faculty Office at 518-580-5705 (Palamountain 416), the Dean of Students Office at 518-580-5760 (Case Center 313), or Human Resources at 518-580-5800 (Barrett Center first floor).



Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1

Wednesday, September 8 Bridge Experience Introductions

Friday, September 10 The Power of Labor History

Weekly Reading

- None

Week 2

Monday, September 13 The World of Pre-Colonial Work

Wednesday, September 15 Indentured Dreams (and Nightmares)

Friday, September 17 The Origins of American Slavery

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, vii-18

Week 3

Monday, September 20 Discuss White, *Voices of the Enslaved*

Wednesday, September 22 The Meaning of Revolution for Workers

Friday, September 24 A Meeting with an Archivist

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 19-42

- White, *Voices of the Enslaved*, all

Week 4

Monday, September 27 Discuss Rockman, *Scraping By*

Wednesday, September 29 Worker Parties and Slave Uprisings

Friday, October 1 A Short History of Saratoga Springs

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 43-69

Week 6

Monday, October 11 NO CLASS (STUDY DAY)
Wednesday, October 13 Monopoly and Mayhem in Gilded Age America
Friday, October 15 Discuss Green, *Death in the Haymarket*

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 90-112

Week 7

Monday, October 18 Populists and Radicals
Wednesday, October 20 The Labor of Empire
Friday, October 22 Sharing Project Ideas

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 113-143
- Green, *Death in the Haymarket*, all

Week 8

Monday, October 25 Industrial Women at Work
Wednesday, October 27 Discuss Moore, *The Radium Girls*
Friday, October 29 MIDTERM EXAM

Weekly Reading

- Moore, *The Radium Girls*, all

Week 9

Monday, November 1 Depression and Desperation
Wednesday, November 3 The Labor of World War
Friday, November 5 Searching for Red Workers

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 144-210

Week 10

Monday, November 8 Research Progress Reports
Wednesday, November 10 Civil Rights and Worker Rights
Friday, November 12 Labor and Liberation in the 1960s

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 211-242

Week 11

Monday, November 15 Discuss Kuhn, *The Hardhat Riot*
Wednesday, November 17 A Conservative Crackdown on Labor
Friday, November 19 Immigrant Workers in America

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 243-271

Week 12

Monday, November 22 Workers of the World (Finally) Unite!
Wednesday, November 24 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)
Friday, November 26 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

Weekly Reading

- Murolo and Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*, 272-322

Week 13

Monday, November 29 Uneasy Allies in Deindustrial America
Wednesday, December 1 Presenting Your Work
Friday, December 3 Presenting Your Work

Weekly Reading

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