This course will explore the history of work, workers, and working class culture in America from the founding of the first colonies to the beginning of the twentieth century. We will focus on how working men and women have constantly strived to make sense of the profound socio-economic and technological changes taking place in this period. We will discuss a wide variety of issues including: workers' organizations and unions, radicalism and working class political culture, the effects of immigration and urbanization on American workers, and the significance of race and gender on workers' solidarity.

The following books are required reading for the course; they are available for purchase in the University Bookstore and are on reserve in Room 1191, College Library, Helen C. White Hall.

Jeremy Brecher  
Strike

Thomas Dublin  
Farm to Factory: The Mill Experience and Women's Lives

Foster Rhea Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky  
Labor in America

Jacqueline Jones  
Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow: Black Women, Work and the Family, From Slavery to the Present

Alice Kessler-Harris  
Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States

In addition, there will be a packet of photocopies for you to purchase at Kinkos (620 University Avenue). Copies will also be on reserve at the College Library. These readings will be marked by the letter "P."

There will be two papers and a final exam in this course. Each paper will be approximately 6-8 pages long. The first paper will be due on Thursday October 6th, and the second will be due on Thursday November 10th. Paper topics will be distributed in advance. The final exam format will be discussed in class. Papers are to be turned in the day they are due in class at the beginning of the lecture; there will be no extensions for late papers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Introduction: Work and Workers in America</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Early Labor Problems and the &quot;Protestant Work Ethnic&quot;</td>
<td>reading: Edmund Morgan, &quot;The Labor Problem at Jamestown, 1607-1618&quot; (p)</td>
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</table>
| September 13| A World of Slaves, Servants, Artisans and Farmers: Labor in Colonial America | reading: Foster Rhea Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky, Labor in America, chapter 1  
|            |                                                                        | : Alice Kessler-Harris, Out to Work chapter 1                             |
| September 15| American Workers, the Revolution, and the Constitution              | reading: Alfred E. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hughes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the Revolution" (p)  
|            |                                                                        | : "Grand Federal Procession, Philadelphia, July 4, 1788" (p)            |
| September 20| Masters, Journeymen, and the Transformation of the Urban Working Class | reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 2  
|            |                                                                        | : "Trial of the Philadelphia Tailors, 1827" (p)  
|            |                                                                        | : "Trial of the Thompsonville Weavers, 1834" (p)                        |
| September 22| The Development of Labor Politics                                   | reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 3  
|            |                                                                        | : Locofocos and the New York Flour Riot of 1837 (p)                    |
| September 27| The Beginnings of the Trade Union Movement                           | reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 4  
|            |                                                                        | : Trades Union of Philadelphia (2 documents) (p)                        |
| September 29| Industrialization                                                    | reading: Kessler-Harris, chapter 2  
|            |                                                                        | : Thomas Dublin, Farm to Factory, pp. 1-36  
|            |                                                                        | : Essay by T.W. Dyott, Philadelphia, 1833 (p)  
|            |                                                                        | : poem; "The Factory Bell" (p)                                         |
| October 4  | Workers and the Mechanized Factory System                            | reading: Dublin, pp. 39-191  
|            |                                                                        | : Kessler-Harris, pp. 59-68                                           |
| October 6  | The Options for Women Workers                                        | reading: Kessler-Harris, pp. 45-58, 68-72  
| Paper Due  |                                                                        | : Mary Blewett, "The Sexual Division of Labor and the Artisan Tradition in Early Industrial Capitalism" (p) |
October 11  Working Class Ethics in Antebellum America  
  reading: Eric Foner, Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War, pp. 57-76 (p)

October 13  Poor Whites and Black Slaves: Labor in the Antebellum South  
  reading: Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow, chapter 1

October 18  The Union and Unionism: White Workers and the Civil War  
  reading: David Montgomery, Beyond Equality: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872, pp. 90-113 (p)  
  Dulles and Dubofsky, pp. 95-107  
  National Labor Union: Address (p)

October 20  Emancipation and the Black Worker  
  reading: Jones, chapters 2 and 3  
  Black National Labor Union: Resolutions (p)

October 25  The Labor Uprising of 1877  
  reading: Jeremy Brecher, Strike, chapter 1  
  Letter describing the Strike of 1877 (p)

October 27  The Knights of Labor  
  reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 8  
  Knights of Labor: Terrance Powderly (p)

November 1  The Growth of an Immigrant Labor Force  
  reading: John Cumbler, "Migration, Class Formation, and Class Consciousness: The American Experience" (p)

November 3  Anarchism and Socialism  
  reading: Hartmut Keil, "German Working-Class Radicalism in the United States from the 1870s to World War I" (p)  
  Richard Schneirov, "Free Thought and Socialism in the Czech Community in Chicago, 1875-1887" (p)  
  International Working People's Association, Manifesto, 1883 (p)

November 8  The Crusade for the Eight Hour Day  
  reading: Brecher, chapter 2

November 10  Trade Unions and the American Federation of Labor  
  reading: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 9  
  Kessler-Harris, chapter 4  
  A.F. of L.: An Appeal (p)

November 15  Clerks and the Changing Nature of Clerical Work  
  reading: Margery Davies, "Woman's Place is at the Typewriter: The Feminization of the Clerical Labor Force" (p)

November 17  Salesworkers and the Commercial Revolution  
  reading: Susan P. Benson, "'The Customer Ain't God': The Work Culture of Department-Store Saleswomen, 1890-1940" (p)
November 22  
Race, Regionalism and American Workers in the Late Nineteenth Century  
reading: Ralph Mann, "Community Change and Caucasian Attitudes Toward the Chinese: The Case of Two California Mining Towns, 1850-1870" (p)

November 24  
THANKSGIVING

November 29  
Machine in the Garden: Farm Labor and the Mechanization of Agriculture  
reading: Nancy Osterud, " 'She Helped Me Hay It as Good as a Man': Relations Among Men and Women in an Agricultural Community" (p)

December 1  
Urban Workers, Urban Development and Urban Politics  
reading: Kessler-Harris, chapter 5  
: Jones, chapter 4

December 6  
Mass Culture and the Struggles Over Working Class Leisure  
reading: Roy Rosenzweig, "Middle Class Parks and Working Class Play: The Struggle over Recreational Space in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1870-1910" (p)  
: Kathy Peiss, "Gender Relations and Working Class Leisure: New York City, 1880-1920" (p)

December 8  
Crises of the 1890s  
reading: Alexander Keyssar, "Unemployment and the Labor Movement in Massachusetts, 1870-1911" (p)

December 13  
The Great Strikes: Homestead and Pullman  
reading: Brecher, chapter 3  
: Dulles and Dubofsky, chapter 10  
: Samuel Gomper, "The Strike and Its Lessons" (p)

December 15  
Labor and the Emergence of American Imperialism  
reading: William Whittaker, "Samuel Gompers, Anti-Imperialist" (p)
American Labor Movement. Began with the Knights of Labor in 1869. The Knights collapsed in the 1880s and were displaced by strong international unions that banded together as the American Federation of Labor under Samuel Gompers. AFL unions negotiated with owners for higher wages and better working conditions. Union growth was slow until 1900, and then grew to a peak during World War I. Progressive Era (1890-1920): laissez-faire: a doctrine opposing government interference with the economy, except to maintain law and order. The labor history of the United States describes the history of organized labor, US labor law, and more general history of working people, in the United States. Beginning in the 1930s, unions became important allies of the Democratic Party. Some historians question why a Labor Party did not emerge in the United States, in contrast to Western Europe. The nature and power of organized labor is the outcome of historical tensions among counter-acting forces involving workplace rights, wages, working hours Labor History Timeline: 1607 – 1999. in: Labor, Organizations. Introduction. From the earliest days of the American colonies, when apprentice laborers in Charleston, S.C., went on strike for better pay in the 1700s, to the first formal union of workers in 1829 who sought to reduce their time on the job to 60 hours a week, our nation’s working people have recognized that joining together is the most effective means of improving their lives on and off the job. Building a New Nation. 1607. English planters found Jamestown colony and complain about lack of laborers. 1619.