

ATA 686: Labor and Labor Organizations in Historical and Comparative Perspective

Spring 2009

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This course deals with the history and theory of labor process and labor organizations 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 does not explicitly deal with Turkish labor history, the students will be required to write a paper on a topic pertaining to workers, workers' movements or labor organizations in Turkey.

Course evaluation is based on a paper (around 15 pages) and a take-home final examination.

Office hours: Tuesday 14:30-16:30, Social Policy Forum.

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

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

K.Marx (1894), *Capital*, Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1974, v.3, pp. 818-820.

III. Time, Work and Life under Capitalism

1 (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.

2 (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.

IV. Perspectives on Free Labor and Class Analysis

1 (week 5)

Workers on the road:

E. R. Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*, Berkeley: University of
California Press, 1982, pp. 354-383.

C. Hahamovitch, "Creating the Perfect Immigrants: Guestworkers in the World
in a Historical Perspective", *Labor History*, v. 44, 2003, pp. 69-94.

S. Sassen, "Countergeographies of Globalization: The Feminization of
Survival", paper presented at the conference on "Gender, Budgets, Financial
Markets, Financing for Development", Berlin, 2000
(<http://www.transformaties.org/bibliotheek/sassgender.htm>).

2 (week 6)

On free labor:

P. Corrigan, "Feudal Relics or Capitalist Monuments? Notes on the Sociology of
Unfree Labour", *Sociology*, v.11, 1977, pp. 435-63.

T. Brass, "Why Free Labour is not 'So-Called': The Fictions of Jairus Banaji", *Peasant Studies*, v.31, 2003, pp.101-136.

3 (week 7)

Rethinking class:

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

M. Savage, *Class Analysis and Social Transformation*, Buckingham, California: Open University Press, 2000, pp. 3-22 and 101-120.

B. Skeggs, *Class, Self, Culture*, London and New York: Routledge, 2004, pp. 45-61(ch.3).

W. Bottero, "Class Identities and the Identity of Class", *Sociology*, v. 38, 2004, pp. 985- 1003.

V. Labor Movement in the Age of Globalization

1 (week 8)

L. Beneria, "Changing Employment Patterns and the Informalization of Jobs: General Trends and Gender Dimensions", Geneva: International Labour Office, August 2001.

Labor History Symposium on *Can Labor Standards Improve under Globalization* by K.A.Elliott and R.B.Freeman (2003), *Labor History*, v. 45 (4), November 2004, pp. 497-535.

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

2 (week 9)

C. Iranzo and T. Patruyo, "Trade Unionism and Globalization: Thoughts from Latin America", *Current Sociology*, v. 50(1), 2002, pp. 57-74.

M. Behrens, K. Hamann, R. Hurd, "Conceptualizing Labour Union Revitalization" in C.M.Frege and J.Kelly (eds.), *Varieties of Unionism: Strategies for Union Revitalization in a Globalizing Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 11-29.

P. Waterman, "Trade Union Internationalism in the Age of Seattle", *Antipode*, v. 33, 2001, pp. 312-336.

VI. Workers and Unions in Turkey (week 10)

F. Adaman, A. Buğra, A. Insel, "Societal Context of Labor Union Strategy: The Case of Turkey", *Labor Studies Journal*, 2008, online first.

A.M.Özdemir, D.Erel, G.Yücesan-Özdemir, "Rethinking the informal Labor Market in Turkey: A possible Politics for Trade Unions", *South East Europe Review*, v. 3, 2004, pp. 79-92.

T. Nichols and N. Sugar, *Global Management and Local Labour: Turkish Workers and Modern Industry*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004, pp. 23-42; 141-182.

VII. Class discussion on student papers (week 11)

VIII. Neoliberal Globalization, Labor and Social Protection (week 12)

K.Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1944, pp. 130-177.

R. Munch, "Globalization, Labor and the 'Polanyi Problem'", *Labor History*, v. 45, August 2004, pp. 251-269.

E.O. Wright, "Basic Income Stakeholder Grants, and Class Analysis", *Politics and Society*, v.32, March 2004, pp. 79-87.

IX. General Class Discussion (week 13)