

ATA 686: Work and Workers in Comparative Historical Perspective

Fall 2014

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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: Wednesday 14.30-16.30, 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, 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

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 Ethic and Workplace Accidents (week 4)

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

Work in Industry and beyond (week 5)

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. 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.

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

Changing Approaches to Regulation (week 7)

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

T. Papadopoulos and A. Roumpakis, “The Meta-Regulation of European Industrial Relations: Power Shifts, Institutional Dynamics and the Emergence of Regulatory Competition”, *International Labour Review*, v. 152, 2013, pp 255-274.

Informal Employment and New Perspectives on Labor and Labor Organizations (week 8)

Portes and W. Haller, “The Informal Economy”, *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005, pp. 403-425.

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.

Workers on the Road (week 9)

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.

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.

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

Ana C. Dinerstein, “The Dream of Dignified Work: On Good and Bad Utopias”, *Development and Change*, Special Issue, v. 45, 2014, pp. 1037-1058.