

WORKING-CLASS AMERICA
History 477
Fall 2007

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Office: 202C Woodburn
Hours: Tu-Th 2:30-3:30 & appt.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the issues surrounding the social history of the American working class. It will explore changes in the modes of production, the significant impact of labor migration patterns, the emergence and transformation of working-class organizations, the political and social ideologies of working people, and the development of industrial relations systems. Particular attention will be given to the impact of racial, ethnic and gender-based conflict on the working-class. Students will be encouraged to interpret historical material in the context of current workplace relations and the future of work in American society.

Class Format: This class will mix lectures and films with discussion of the assigned readings. Therefore, the success of the course depends upon the completion of reading assignments **prior to class** and the participation of students in class discussion. If students fall behind in the readings they will find it difficult to participate in a meaningful fashion.

Note: It is also important that students bring the relevant books to class.

Required Texts:

P. Murolo & A. Chitty, *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend*
D. Kasserman, *Fall River Outrage*
S. Nelson, *Steel Drivin' Man*
T. Bell, *Out of This Furnace*
W. Tuttle, *Race Riot*
J. Cowie, *Capital Moves*

Grades: Student grades will be based on four essays, ranging in length from four to six pages, and class participation. The papers will include:

Two mid-term exams (100 pts each)	200 points
A research paper using primary sources	100 points
Reading quizzes	50 points
Class attendance and participation	50 points

Class participation will be comprised of attendance, short assignments and quizzes, and will total 100 points. Thus, grades will be awarded on the following scale:

A = 360 points and above
B = 320 to 359 points
C = 280 to 319 points
D = 240 to 279 points

Grading Policy: It is expected that all assignments will be turned in on the assigned date. Failure to do so will automatically result in a substantial penalty in grading. Furthermore, **plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students submitting work that involves plagiarism will be given an automatic failing grade. If students have questions about extensive quotes from other people's work, they should seek the instructor's guidance.

Class Atmosphere: The instructor's goal is to create an informal class atmosphere to encourage general participation and a variety of viewpoints. It is therefore important that students respect the viewpoints expressed by others in the class. Also, the instructor will be available during office hours and by appointment to offer additional assistance. Students are encouraged to take advantage of such assistance.

Social Justice Policy: Any student suffering from any type of disability should contact the instructor during the first week of class. Discussions regarding assistance will be held in confidence. In addition, the student may also contact Disability Services, 215 Student Service Center (next to the Mountainlair). The center offers information, referrals, and counseling.

Class Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Aug. 21	Class Introduction	
Aug. 23	Unfree Labor	Murolo, 1-23
Aug. 28	Working for the Empire	
Aug. 30	Revolutionary Workers; "Tea Party Etiquette"	Murolo, 24-84
Sep. 4	Expanding Slavery	Kasserman, 1-49
Sep. 6	Wage Labor in the Republic	Kasserman, 51-98
Sep. 11	"Daughters of Free Men"	Kasserman, 99-185
Sep. 13	No class	Kasserman, remainder
Sep. 18	Workers and the Civil War	Nelson, 1-40; Murolo, 85-109
Sep. 20	Meaning of Emancipation	Nelson, 40-92;
Sep. 25	The Rise of Labor	Nelson, 92-117; Murolo, 110-37
Sep. 27	Natives and Newcomers "River Ran Red"	Bell, 3-117
Oct. 2	Progressives and Radicals	Bell, 119-208
Oct. 4	First Mid-Term Exam	
Oct. 9	The Promise of Industrial Democracy	Murolo, 138-173, Bell 209-258
Oct. 11	The Reality of Mass Production	Tuttle (half)
Oct. 16	"The Killing Floor"	Tuttle (second half)
Oct. 18	"The Killing Floor" (cont.)	Murolo, 174-191
Oct. 23	Labor on the March	Murolo, 192-220, Bell 259-325
Oct. 25	A New Deal Coalition	Bell, 325-413
Oct. 30	"Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter"	Murolo, 221-245
Nov. 1	Remaking Dixie	Cowie, 1-40
Nov. 6	Remaking the Nation	Murolo, 221-275
Nov. 8	No class	Cowie, 41-99
Nov. 13	Research Paper Reports	
Nov. 15	Research Paper Reports	
Nov. 20-22	Spring Break	
Nov. 27	New Politics of Inequality	Murolo, 276-292
Nov. 29	"Roger and Me"	Cowie, 100-201
Dec. 4	Seeds of Change	Murolo, 292-330
Dec. 6	Review	
Dec. 12	Final Exam, 8-10 am	