HTS 3006 United States Labor History
Course Syllabus – Fall 2014

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Skiles 170 12:05 – 12:55

Professor: Naomi R Williams
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Office: 135 Old Civil Engineering
Office hours: Tues 9-11, Wed 1:15-3:15
And by appointment

Course Statement

We will look at the nature of work and how it has changed over time, worker-created institutions, and government policy related to labor and business.

Goals

- To learn about U.S. labor history and how workers have impacted political economy over time
- To learn critical reading skills and gain confidence in oral communication and leading discussions

Learning Outcomes

Area E Approved Learning Outcome: Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.
This course is about the history of labor and working-class issues in the United States. Students will learn how social, political, and economic forces influence social behavior through an examination of primary documents, lectures, and secondary readings. Students will demonstrate that they have met the Area E learning outcome through the writing of essays, class discussion, and oral presentations. At the end of this course, students will be able to describe the ways in which working-class people impacted U.S. political economy from the 19th century to the present. Students will also gain critical reading skills and effective oral and written communication skills.

Format

HTS 3006 will consist of short lectures, class discussion, and student presentations.

Honor Code

Georgia Tech students are on the honor system. Therefore, cheating in any form is prohibited and will not be tolerated. When this is detected, a **"ZERO"** grade is given for the assignment. This includes plagiarizing from any sources. **Plagiarism:** Copying or summarizing any material from the internet or any other sources without proper citation. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, please check with me. (See: www.deanofstudents. Gatech.edu/Honor/).

Classroom Etiquette

Attendance is mandatory. Please arrive on time and remain for the duration of class. No cell phones or other electronic devices allowed in class. This includes laptops. Group discussion is a key feature of this course, so we will all get to know one another, refer to individuals by name, give courteous attention to all speakers, and

actively participate in intellectual conversations. If you have any concerns about speaking in public, please see me and we can work on strategies. If you have emergencies or other crucial circumstances that require you to come late or leave early, please let me know in advance and we can decide the best course of action.

Course Requirements

1. Group presentations
2. Short analysis papers
    a. Everyone must turn in an analysis of Scraping By
    b. Your second analysis is a book of your choosing but cannot be the book you present on to class

3. Final theme essay based on readings and discussion (there will be no final exam in this class)

Readings

- Seth Rockman. *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore*. Johns Hopkins University Press. 2011. ISBN: 9780801890079

- Scott Reynolds Nelson. *Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend*. Oxford University Press. 2008. ISBN 9780195341195

- Lizbeth Cohen. *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press. 2008. ISBN 9780521715355

- William P. Jones. *The March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom, and the Forgotten History of Civil Rights*. W.W. Norton. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-393-08285-2 Paperback should be available by August so that is okay as well ISBN: 978-0-393-34941-2

- Jefferson R. Cowie. *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*. The New Press. 2010. ISBN: 978-1-59558-707-7

How to Read for class

Reading is an active process. You must read critically. This does not mean you must find something to criticize about the material. Instead, you have to read closely, analyze the argument and the use of sources and then decide what you think about what the author is trying to say. Are you convinced? Did something challenge your assumptions? Were your ideas confirmed or contradicted?
As you read ask yourself the following questions and take notes:

- What is the subject?
- What is the author's argument about this subject?
- Why does it matter (what's the big picture)?
- What sort of evidence is used and is it used effectively?
- How is the reading organized?
- What assumptions did the author start with? How did that impact the argument?

You will find that reading critically and actively engaging with the material will allow you to more easily construct discussion questions, help you feel more prepared for class, and prepare well for writing assignments.

Grading

Attendance and Participation - 40%

Attendance	- 15%
Discussion	- 10%
Presentation	- 15%
Short papers	- 30%
Final essay	- 30%

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 - 18 August
Monday - Introductions

Wednesday – Work in the Early Republic
Reading: *Scraping By*, Introduction

Friday – Work in the Early Republic; American Capitalism and low-wage workers
Reading: *Scraping By*, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 - 25 August
Monday – Women and Work
Reading: *Scraping By*, Chapters 3 through 5

Wednesday – Workers Resistance & Strategies
Reading: *Scraping By*, Chapters 6 & 7

Friday – Systems of Labor in a Slave & Free State
Reading: *Scraping By*, Chapter 8 & Conclusion

Week 3 - 01 September
Monday – **Labor Day**

Wednesday – Work and the Industrial Revolution
Short analysis of *Scraping By* due
Reading: Available on class website

Friday – Industrial labor
Reading: Available on class website

Week 4 – 08 September
Monday – Doing Labor History
Reading: *Steel Drivin Man*, Chapters 1 & 2

Wednesday – Southern Labor
Reading: *Steel Drivin Man*, Chapters 3 & 4

Friday – Southern Labor
Reading: *Steel Drivin Man*, Chapter 5

Week 5 - 15 September
Monday -
Group 1 Presentation
Reading: *Steel Drivin Man*, Chapters 6 & 7

Wednesday – The Working-Class in American Culture
Reading: *Steel Drivin Man*, Chapter 8 & Coda

Friday – The U.S. at War
Reading: Available on class website

Week 6 - 22 September
Monday – The Growth of Labor Unions – Knights of Labor
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Introduction & Chapter 1

Wednesday – The Growth of Labor Unions – AFL
Group 2 Presentation
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 2

Friday – The Growth of Labor Unions - CIO
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 3

Week 7 - 29 September
Monday – New Deal
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 4

Wednesday – New Deal
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 5

Friday – New Deal
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 6

Week 8 - 06 October
Monday – The Changing Corporation
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 7

Wednesday – Capital and the Social Contract
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 8

Friday – Postwar Liberalism and the American Worker
Reading: *Making a New Deal*, Chapter 9

Week 9 - 13 October
Monday – **Fall recess**

Wednesday – The Black Worker
Reading: *March on Washington*, Preface & Chapter 1

Friday – Worker Rights are Civil Rights
Group 3 Presentation
Reading: *March on Washington*, Chapter 2

Week 10 - 20 October
Monday – Interracial Unionism
Reading: *March on Washington*, Chapter 3

Wednesday – Union Movement and Social Justice
Reading: *March on Washington*, Chapter 4

Friday – Union Movement and the Women's Movement
Reading: *March on Washington*, Chapter 5 & Epilogue

Week 11 - 27 October
Monday – The Changing Nature of U.S. Labor
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Introduction

Wednesday
Group 4 Presentation
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 1

Friday – Government Deregulation and the Corporation
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 2

Week 12 - 03 November
Monday – Immigration and Work
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 3

Wednesday – Changing Economies
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 4

Friday – International Conglomeration
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 5

Week 13 - 10 November
Monday – Worker Networks
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 6

Wednesday – Domestic Workers
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 7

Friday – Contingent Labor
Reading: *Stayin Alive*, Chapter 8

Week 14 - 17 November
Monday – The Future of U.S. Labor
Reading: Available on class website

Wednesday – The Future of the Labor Movement
Reading: Available on class website

Friday – The Future of U.S. Capitalism
Reading: Available on class website

Week 15 - 24 November
Monday – The Future of Public Policy
Reading: Available on class website

Wednesday – The Future of Public Policy
Reading: Available on class website

Friday – **Thanksgiving Holiday**
Reading: Available on class website

Week 16 - 01 December
Monday – Class Discussion – Current U.S. Labor Issues

Wednesday – Class Discussion – Current U.S. Labor Issues

Friday – Class Discussion – Current U.S. Labor Issues
Final Paper Due

Week of 08 December – **Exam week**
12 December – Exam period 11:30- 2:20