Spring, 2016

Political Science 517/Sociology 693: The Politics of Capital and Labor in the United States

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Richard Hogan, Sociology

Examining the United States from a political economy perspective requires an analysis of the transformation of its capitalist system from agriculture, to industry, to service, to financial speculation. Central to change in the United States over the last two hundred years has been the ongoing conflicts and accommodations of owners and managers of the capitalist system, the state, and workers. Through seminar discussion of a broad array of interdisciplinary readings this course will examine the changes in the United States capitalist system since the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century, drawing upon theories of political economy, and examinations of critical moments in the development of workplace struggles and trade unions in response to economic changes.

All students will read five of seven core texts and all posted articles; graduate students will read all seven core texts, and all class participants will prepare seminar papers that address aspects of the changing United States economy, politics, and workers movements. Grades will be determined by the quality of classroom participation, periodic presentations on assigned readings, and the assigned seminar paper.

*Core Readings*

David Harvey, *Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism*, Oxford University Press, 2014

Melvyn Dubofsky, *We Shall Be All: A History of the Industrial Workers of the World,* University of Illinois Press, 2000 [1969]

Paula F. Pfeffer. *A Phillip Randolph, Pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement*, Louisiana State University, 1990.

James R. Green, *The World of the Worker,* University of Illinois, 1998.

Michael K. Honey, *Southern Labor and Black Civil Rights: Organizing Memphis Workers,* University of Illinois Press, 1993

Nancy F. Gabin, *Feminism in the Labor Movement: Women and the United Automobile Workers, 1935-1975,* Cornel University Press, 1990.

Fran Quigley, *If We Can Win Here: The New Front Lines in the Labor Movement*, Cornell University Press.

**Additional Readings**

Bernstein, Barton (ed), *Towards a New Path*

Bowles, Samuel Herb Gintis, and David Gordon, *Beyond the Wasteland*

Cohen, Lizabeth *A Consumer Republic* and *Making a New Deal*

Davis, Mike, *Prisoner of the American Dream* and *C*i*ty of Quartz*

Dowd, Douglas *The Twisted Dream*

Dray, Philip, *There is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America,* anchor, 2011.

Duberman, Martin, *Paul Robeson*

Edwards, Richard et al (ed), *The Capitalist System*

Fones-Wolfe, Elizabeth, *Selling Free Enterprise,* University of Illinois, 1994.

Foner, Phillip (ed.), *Paul Robeson Speaks*

Fuller, Margaret, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano, *How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*

Gornick, Vivian, *The Romance of American Communism*

Horowitz, Roger, *"Negro and White, Unite and Fight!" A Social History of Industrial Unionism in Meatpacking, 1930-90*\*

Hyam, Stephen, *Goldborough*

Kimmeldorf, Howard, *Battling for American Labor: Wobblies, Craft Workers, and the Making of the Union Movement*

Jackson, Esther Cooper (ed.), *Freedomways Reader*

Kaplan, Judy and Linn Shapiro, *Red Diapers: Growing Up in the Communist Left*

Kelley, Robin, *Race Rebels* and *Hammer and Hoe*

Kopkind, Andrew, *The Thirty Years War*

Lens, Sid, *Radicalism in America*

Lewis, Sinclair, *It Can’t Happen Here*

Lipsitz, George, *Rainbow at Midnight*

Lynd, Alice and Staughton, *Rank and File*

Milkman, Ruth and Kim Voss (eds.), *Rebuilding Labor: Organizing and Organizers in the New Union Movement*

Mills, C. Wright, *The New Men of Power* and *White Collar* and *The Power Elite* and *The Sociological Imagination*

Montgomery, David, *The Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925*

Naison, Mark, *Communists in Harlem*

Olmsted, Kathryn S. *Right Out of California: The 1930s and the Big Business Roots of Modern Conservatism* (New Press).

Olson, Tillie, *Yonnondio: From the Thirties*

Parenti, Michael, *The Culture Struggle* and *Land of Idols*

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward, *Poor People's Movements*

Schmidt, Regin, *Red Scare*

Schrank, Robert, *Wasn’t That a Time? Growing Up Radical and Red in America*

Sinclair, Upton, *The Jungle*

Targ, Harry, *Strategies of an Empire in Decline: Cold War II*

Terkel, Studs *Working* and *Hard Times*

Voss, Kim *The Making of American Exceptionalism*

Winant, Howard, *The World is a Ghetto*

Wysong, Earl, Robert Perrucci, David Wright, *The New Class Society*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2014, fourth edition.

Zinn, Howard, *A People’s History of the United States*