

San José State University
Department of History
HIST 181-01: Labor History, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Katherine Chilton
Office Location: DMH 321
Email: Katherine.chilton@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12pm-1pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays 9:00-10:15 am
Classroom: HGH 225
Prerequisites: Upper division standing or instructor consent.

Course Description

An investigation in depth of selected periods or topics in American history. Course is repeatable for credit when topic changes up to 12 units.

The course examines the history of working people in the United States and the strategies they have used, both within and outside of trade unions, to influence the development of American society, economy, culture and politics. We will consider particularly the way that historians of labor have conceived and reconsidered the history of the working class in the United States, moving beyond labor unions to view a wide variety of ways that working people resist and protest for better conditions. Through class work and a research project, we will investigate the ways that labor history can illuminate current labor issues, such as the precarity of the gig economy and legal challenges to union organizing.

Course Format

Hybrid Course

This course has a hybrid synchronous structure, which means that we meet once per week in the classroom or via Zoom and conduct the remainder of the work online through the Canvas LMS. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources](#) page.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1 Describe and explain the history of working people in the United States

CLO2 Illustrate the causes of the rise and fall of the union movement in the United States

CLO3 Analyze how old and new labor histories have revised interpretations of work and workers in America

CLO4 Conceive and carry out a research project for a podcast that draws on primary and secondary historical research to illuminate a contemporary labor issue

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Greenhouse, Steven. *Beaten down, Worked up : the Past, Present, and Future of American Labor* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. 978-1101874431

Other Readings

All other readings and course materials can be found linked on the Canvas course page.

Library Liaison

History's Library Liaison is Nyle Monday who can be reached at Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu or (408) 808-2041. While he is available during working hours for e-mail inquiries, you should schedule appointments with him if you need extensive one-on-one research help using library resources.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be required to complete the following assignments throughout the semester:

Weekly primary document analysis assignments	210	CLO 1, 2
Historiographic Book Review	100	CLO 3
Podcast Reflection Journal	180	CLO 1, 2
Unit Discussion Forum	250	CLO 1, 2, 3
Research Paper	260	CLO 4
Total	1000	

Discussion Forum:

Students are expected to participate in five Unit discussion forums. Discussion postings will be graded according to the rubric on the course canvas site. For each unit discussion, students should make one substantive post based on course reading and resources and two follow up posts by the due dates stated on Canvas.

Primary Document Assignment:

In each module you will complete a document analysis or short composition, connecting a primary source to the themes and readings for the week.

Podcast Reflection Journal:

Each week you will listen to a podcast related to Labor History and write a journal response detailing the main issues raised in the podcast and your analysis and interpretation of the events. You will post this on the Podcast reflection journal board by the end of the Module.

Historiographic Book Review

After completing the units on the Old and New Labor History, you will write a historiographic book review (2-3 pages) of a new book in labor history connecting its contributions to the development of a new labor history. The list of books you can choose from will be listed on Canvas.

Research Project: Podcast Script and Recording

For your research project this semester, you will develop your own 15-20 minute podcast examining how labor history can help us understand a current labor issue. This will involve considerable research in primary and secondary sources to identify a current labor issue, develop a bibliography for your project, and create a script (8-10 pages) and recording (15-20 mins) for your podcast. This project will be carefully broken down into multiple components to keep you on track and accountable.

1. Identify Current Labor Issue (1-2 pages)
2. Compile Research Bibliography
3. Thesis and Outline
4. Podcast Script (8-10 pages) and recording (15-20 mins)

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University's Syllabus Information web page](#)

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information

All assignments will be graded according to the rubrics in Canvas.

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](#)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](#)

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 96%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>87 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 86%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>77 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 76%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 66%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

A student with a semester average below 60% will fail the course.

Extra Credit

Students may get extra credit for viewing related films on their own time (list of films on Canvas). You should upload a selfie as proof to the Extra Credit assignment on Canvas.

Classroom Protocol

This course will consider controversial issues in the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States and the effects of inequality and privilege on the development of American society and institutions. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner during all interactions. Students should avoid colloquial language, characterizations, remarks, or outright slurs that pertain to groups in the abstract or to their fellow students in particular.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Academic Honesty

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf), at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. All work submitted in this course must be your own and plagiarism detection tools such as Turnitin and Arc will be used to monitor academic honesty.

HIST 181 Labor History Spring 2022

Course schedule is subject to amendment. Students will be notified of any changes via email and in Canvas.

Course Schedule

Module	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments and Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
1	01/26	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p>Podcast: Steven Greenhouse, Labor Revival https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkvIuzcyWT8</p>	Introductory Discussion	
		Unit 1: The Old Labor History		
2	01/31	<p>Artisans and Industrialization</p> <p>Reading: Ira Berlin, "Herbert G. Gutman and the American Working Class," in <i>Power & Culture: Essays on the American Working Class</i>, ed. Ira Berlin (New York, 1987), 1-69.</p> <p>Herbert Gutman, <i>Work, culture, and society in industrializing America, 1815-1919</i> in Gutman, Herbert G. <i>Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America: Essays in American Working-Class and Social History</i>. New York: Vintage Books, 1977.</p>	Module 2 Document Analysis	<i>CLO3</i>
3	02/07	<p>Omissions and a New Mission</p> <p>Reading: Joan W. Scott, "On Language, Gender, and Working-Class History," <i>International Labor and Working-Class History</i>, No. 31 (Spring, 1987), pp. 1-13</p> <p>David Roediger, "'Labor in White Skin': Race and Working Class History," <i>Toward the</i></p>	Module 3 Document Analysis Unit 1 Discussion	<i>CLO3</i>

Module	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments and Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		<i>Abolition of Whiteness</i> (Verso, 1994), 21-38		
		Unit 2: New Labor History		
4	02/14	<p>Free and Unfree Labor</p> <p>Reading: Seth Rockman, <i>Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore</i> (John Hopkins University Press, 2009) Chapter 2</p> <p>Linebaugh, Peter., and Marcus. Rediker. <i>The Many-Headed Hydra : Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic</i>. Boston: Beacon Press, 2000. Chapter 6</p> <p>Podcast: Andres Resendez on the Other Slavery: https://www.learningforjustice.org/podcasts/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/the-other-slavery</p>	<p>Module 4 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 4 Podcast Reflection</p>	<p><i>CLO1</i></p> <p><i>CLO3</i></p>
5	02/21	<p>Women’s Work</p> <p>Reading: Jeanne Boydston, "To Earn Her Daily Bread: Housework and Antebellum Working-Class Subsistence," <i>Radical History Review</i> 35 (Spring 1986), pp. 7-25</p> <p>Women’s Labor History Excerpts (Canvas)</p> <p>Podcast: First Factory Strike – The Pawtucket Mill Strike from Working Class History Podcast https://workingclasshistory.com/podcast/e28-the-pawtucket-mill-strike/#more-632</p>	<p>Module 5 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 5 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Research Project: Identify Current Labor Issue</p>	<p><i>CLO1</i></p> <p><i>CLO3</i></p>
6	02/28	<p>The Weapons of the Weak: Resistance and Protest beyond Unions</p> <p>Reading: Tera Hunter, “Domination and Resistance: The Politics of Wage Household Labor in New South Atlanta,” <i>Labor History</i> 34 (1993), 205-220</p>	<p>Module 6 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 6 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Unit 2 Discussion</p>	<p><i>CLO1</i></p> <p><i>CLO3</i></p>

Module	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments and Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		<p>Robin D. G. Kelley, "We Are Not What We Seem": Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South," <i>Journal of American History</i> 80 (Jun., 1993), 75-112</p> <p>Podcast: Labor History Today Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South https://soundcloud.com/chrisgarlock/labor-history-today-22320-african-american-lumber-workers-in-the-jim-crow-south?in=chrisgarlock/sets/labor-history-today</p>		
		Unit 3: The Rise of Labor		
7	03/07	<p>Immigration and Unionization</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 4</p> <p>Podcast: https://workingclasshistory.com/podcast/wch-e6-the-industrial-workers-of-the-world-in-the-us-1905-1918/#more-118</p>	<p>Module 7 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 7 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Historiographic Book Review</p>	CLO1 CLO2
8	03/14	<p>A New Deal for Labor</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 5-6</p> <p>Podcast: Lizbeth Cohen, anniversary of Making a New Deal https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/lizbeth-cohen-making-new-deal-industrial-workers-in/id425187524?i=1000384314822</p>	<p>Module 8 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 8 Podcast Reflection</p>	CLO1 CLO2
9	03/21	<p>Postwar Labor and Civil Rights</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 7-8,</p> <p>Podcast: William P Jones https://laborhistorytoday.podbean.com/e/marching-on-washington-civil-rights-to-voting-rights/</p>	<p>Module 8 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 8 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Unit 3 Discussion</p>	CLO1 CLO2

Module	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments and Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		Unit 4: The Fall of Labor		
10	04/04	<p>The 1970s</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 9</p> <p>Cowie, Jefferson. Stayin' Alive : the 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class. New York: New Press, 2010. Chapter 5</p> <p>Podcast: 1970s: A New Narrative https://soundcloud.com/southernlaborstudies/a-new-narrative-for-labor-in-the-1970s</p>	<p>Module 10 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 10 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Research Project: Bibliography</p>	<p>CLO1</p> <p>CLO2</p>
11	04/11	<p>Deindustrialization</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 10</p> <p>Thomas J. Sugrue, "'Forget about Your Inalienable Right to Work': Deindustrialization and its Discontents at Ford, 1950-1953," <i>International Labor and Working-Class History</i> 48 (Fall 1995), 112-30</p> <p>Podcast: Gabriel Winant https://soundcloud.com/cunyslu/episode-15-the-next-shift-the-fall-of-industry-the-rise-of-health-care-in-rust-belt-america</p>	<p>Module 11 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 11 Podcast Reflection</p>	
12	04/18	<p>Assault on Unions</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 13-14</p> <p>Podcast: Jefferson Cowie on Deindustrialization and 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwkou2DCyY</p>	<p>Module 12 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 12 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Unit 4 Discussion</p>	<p>CLO1</p> <p>CLO2</p>
		Unit 5: Labor Today		
13	04/25	<p>Gig Economy</p> <p>Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 15</p> <p>Media coverage selection (Canvas)</p>	<p>Module 13 Document Analysis</p> <p>Module 13 Podcast Reflection</p> <p>Research Project: Thesis and Outline</p>	<p>CLO1</p> <p>CLO4</p>

Module	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments and Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		Podcast: Uber and the Gig Economy Fallacy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u0BsOVqBXU		
14	05/02	Minimum Wage Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 16 Media coverage selection (Canvas) Podcast: Belabored: The Legacy of Occupy Wall Street https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/belabored-the-legacy-of-occupy-wall-street	Module 14 Document Analysis Module 14 Podcast Reflection	CLO1 CLO4
15	05/09	Red 4 Ed and Public Sector Unionism after Janus Reading: Greenhouse, Chap 20 Podcast: Higher Ed and Labor Issues https://soundcloud.com/southernlaborstudies/the-labor-question-and-higher-education	Module 15 Document Analysis Module 15 Podcast Reflection Unit 5 Discussion	CLO1 CLO4
Final	05/22		Research Project Podcast Script and Recording	CLO 4