

United States Economic and Business History
History 322
Professor Andrew E. Kersten
Spring 2011

Description: This course is an introduction to the economic and business history of the United States. It focuses on the rise of big business as well as the rise of organized labor in the modern period of American history. Students will examine the structure of the economy, the creation of wealth and inequality, and the struggle for economic justice.

Course Information:

Class meeting: Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 pm (ES 114)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Instructor Email: kerstena@uwgb.edu
Course Email: C5084-sp11@uwgb.edu
Internet: <http://www.uwgb.edu/kerstena/index2.htm>
Office Phone: 920-465-2443
Office: Mary Ann Cofrin Hall (MAC) A 317

Required Books:

Nelson Lichtenstein, State of the Union
Elliott J. Gorn, Mother Jones
Steven Greenhouse, The Big Squeeze

Writing Emphasis: This is a Writing Emphasis Course. See <http://www.uwgb.edu/lasdean/gened/writemph.html>

Intended Student Learning Outcomes:

- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Exercise problem-solving skills.
- Develop a fundamental understanding of major events and movements in modern American economic and business history.
- Identify and clarify individual and social values in the United States.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation for cultural diversity.

Assignments:

- 1) Three exams, all essay format: 60% (each 20%).
- 2) Biography of labor leader: 12%+4%.
- 3) D2L posts: 24% (each 3%)

Assignments Explained:

Exams: On the exams, you will have to answer two questions in essay format. You will have a choice.

Biography of a working-class hero: Choose a working-class leader from the list below (except for Mother Jones), gather two books and two articles from historical journals, and write a 1500 word biography. Your short biography must explain how this person was important to the labor movement. I will send you a detailed document about my expectations on your writing. At the end of the course, you will introduce your leader for 10 minutes.

D2L Post: Nearly each week, you will have post TWO responses to D2L. The first will be an original answer to one of the questions posed. In this answer, you must quote from the reading materials. The second is a response to another's post. Your posts should be between 50 and 150 words. Feel free to use quotes from the readings. The questions will be ready after class on Wednesday and your posts are due before the next class.

Student Conduct:

I expect all students to abide by the UW-Green Bay student conduct policies. See http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/index.html and especially http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/students/civility_tolerance.html

Disability Notice:

Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2671 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

Additional Rules:

- During class, turn off all phones.
- Never send your written work as an email or email attachment unless specifically instructed to do so.
- You are not allowed to bring in outside resources for any take-home exam or essay assignment unless specifically directed to do so. Violating this policy may result in a significantly reduced grade on that exam or assignment.
- You are not allowed to use the web site Wikipedia unless specifically directed to do so.
- Always keep several updated copies of your files on disk and at least one recent hard copy.
- Try to never miss a class immediately following a major exam. In fact, don't skip class at all.
- In this class, use your best professional skills while writing, speaking, and communicating with others.
- This class welcomes all types of learners. Persons with disabilities that might affect learning should contact me during the first week of class.
- Check your UW-Green Bay email twice daily. You are responsible for reading and understanding the email that I send you. Only send me email from your UW-Green Bay email. The campus spam mail filter quarantines mail from yahoo, msn, AOL, hotmail, and other providers.
- Store all your papers and notes on a flash drive as well as your computer's hard drive. You'll thank me later.
- Finally use this syllabus as a class resource. Don't lose it. Refer to it frequently to ensure that you are caught up on reading and studying, that your papers meet the guidelines below, and that you understand when things will happen in this course.

Expectations:

- Attend class every day, and be respectful of others during class.
- Come to class on time and prepared for the day's work.
- Participate in class every day.
- Read and understand all materials.
- Work hard and honestly and professionally.

Writing:

Except for the D2L posts, all written work must be at least 1500 words, typed in black ink. You must have your name on your paper, follow good writing etiquette, staple your pages together, and use page numbers for papers longer than two pages. Double-space everything. No cover pages or report covers. See my style guide at <http://www.uwgb.edu/kerstena/writingtips.htm>.

Grading:

Grades are not curved. Except in emergency situations, late work will lose one letter grade per weekday (Sunday through Saturday) without prior approval of the instructor. There are no late final exams. If you fail to complete the exam, you will receive a zero for that grade. Attendance will be taken and students are expected to attend class for the entire period and are expected to contribute to discussions. Cheating constitutes a violation of University policy and students will be subject to University disciplinary actions. I'm happy to talk about grades, but not by email. Please see me during office hours or make an appointment.

Extra Credit: Periodically, there will be extra credit opportunities. If you attend one of my recommended campus events and turn in a 300 word summary the next class period you will get a 2% bonus per item on the upcoming exam. 6% max per exam.

Grading Scale:

100-93 A	89-85 B	79-70 C
92-90 A/B	84-80 B/C	69-60 D

Grading Rubric

As (90-100)	Bs (80-89)	Cs (70-79)	Ds (60-69)	F (59 and below)
Your essay is well constructed. It has paragraphs, topic sentences, and most importantly a clear thesis. Your essay demonstrates a command of the material. It uses quotes from the readings. You have an exceptional command of the English language. You avoid making many grammatical or stylistic errors.	Your essay is very good. It has paragraphs. You probably need to develop your thesis and/or topic sentences. You have a fair command of the reading materials but could have used more quotes or direct references. Your essay has some grammatical and stylistic problems.	Your essay is good. And yet, you need work to improve its structure. You need to work on your thesis and/or topic sentences. You have a fair command of the reading materials. You could have used more quotes. You have serious grammatical and stylistic problems.	Your essay lacks coherence. You make errors in essay structure, style, and grammar. You lack a command of the reading materials. You make many stylistic and grammatical errors. This paper needs a lot of work.	You failed to complete the assignment.

Course Outline

Week One:

January 26: Status of Labor in 2010

Film: *The Molly Maguires*

D2L Post #1

Week Two:

February 2: Labor in the Gilded Age

Film: *Matewan*

Read Gorn to page 199.

D2L Post #2

Week Three:

February 9: Progressive Era and the Transformation of American Capitalism

Read Gorn to page 303.

Prospectus Due

Week Four:

February 16: New Deal Labor Relations

Read Lichtenstein to 98.

The Grapes of Wrath

D2L Post #3

Week Five:

February 23: Immigrant Labor in America

Read Lichtenstein to 177.

Salt of the Earth

Review

Week Six:

March 2

Exam

Week Seven:

March 9: Labor and Civil Rights

10,000 Black Men Named George

D2L Post #4

Week Eight:

March 16: Spring Break

Week Nine:

March 23: Imperfect Union

Hoffa

D2L Post #5

Week Ten:

March 30: Unions in the 1970s

Norma Rae

D2L Post #6

Week Eleven:

April 6: Troubled Times

Read Lichtenstein to 245.

North Country

D2L Post #7

Week Twelve:

April 13

Exam

Week Thirteen:

April 20: Reagan and the Social Revolution of the 1980s

Read Greenhouse to 158.

Roger and Me

D2L Post #8

Week Fourteen:

April 27: The Future of Global Capitalism

Read Lichtenstein to 276

Read Greenhouse to 304.

Is Walmart Good For America?

Week Fifteen:

May 4

Student Presentations and Review

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 12, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

List for biographies:

Abramowitz (Hillman), Bessie	Flynn, Elizabeth Gurley	Meany, George
Addams, Jane	Foster, William Z.	Moore, Michael
Algeld, John Peter	Frania, Louis C.	Murphy, Frank
Beck, David	Frankenstein, Richard	Murray, Philip
Bellamy, Edward	Frey, John	Nestor, Agnes
Berger, Victor	Furuseth, Andrew	Parsons, Albert
Brandeis, Louis D.	Galbraith, John Kenneth	Perlman, Selig
Bridges, Harry	George, Henry	Randolph, Asa Philip
Browder, Earl	Goldman, Emma	Reed, John
Bryan, William J.	Gompers, Samuel	Reuther, Walter
Cannon, Joseph D.	Green, William	Riis, Jacob
Carey, James	Harrington, Michael	Roosevelt, Franklin D.
Carey, Ron	Haas, Francis J.	Roosevelt, Theodore
Chavez, Cesar	Haywood, William D.	Sinclair, Upton
Chavez-Thompson, Linda	Hillman, Sidney	Strasser, Adolph
Commons, John R.	Hoffa, James P.	Sweeney, John J.
Coxey, Jacob	Hutcheson, William L.	Sylvis, William H.
Darrow, Clarence	Jones, Mary Harris (a.k.a., Mother)	Thomas, Norman
Debs, Eugene	King, Martin Luther, Jr.	Tobin, Dan
DeLeon, Daniel	LaFollette, Robert M.	Townsend, Williard S.
Dennis, Eugene	Lewis, John L.	Trumka, Rich
Dubinsky, David	Lloyd, Henry Demarest	Wagner, Robert F.
Ely, Richard	Long, Huey	Walsh, Frank P.
Fitzpatrick, John	Lovestone, Jay	Woll, Matthew

Prospectus for Final Paper

Directions: **Reproduce** this page on your computer and turn it in. Attach copies of your outline and bibliography. I will return **your** form and attachments as soon as possible. **Remember your form must be typed.**

1. Your name:
2. Proposed topic for your biography:
3. Write a 150 word abstract of your presentation
4. On the back, provide a topic outline which describes the sections and major points which will be discussed in your presentation.
5. Provide your secondary bibliography on a separate page.

Paper Turn In Checklist:

Have you remembered the little things?

- Have you put your name on the first page of the paper?
- Have you remember not to attach a cover page?
- Have you numbered your pages?
- Have you stapled your paper?
- Have you used black ink?
- Have you double-spaced your paper?

Have you remembered the big things?

- Have you clearly identified your thesis?
- Have you used proper paragraph form (with indents)?
- Have you used topic sentences?
- Have you used quotations to support your ideas?
- Have you used proper footnote and bibliographic formats?
- Have you revised your paper with several drafts?