

## HISTORY 607 - SEMINAR IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

### HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY, WORK, AND LABOR

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This research seminar will concentrate on the history of American technology as linked to changes in work and the history of American labor. We will investigate the ways technological change defined and redefined the nature of production for areas such as railroad work, mining, automobile manufacture, office work and computers. We will explore how workers were involved with and perceived changes in machinery and the work process, and how technical innovations related to broader issues for American workers.

#### REQUIRED BOOKS -

- Aitken, Hugh; Taylorism at Watertown Arsenal: Scientific Management in Action.
- Braverman, Harry; Labor and Monopoly Capital.
- Licht, Walter; Working for the Railroad.
- Noble, David; Forces of Production.

#### RECOMMENDED BOOKS -

- Marcus, Alan and Howard Segal; Technology in America.
- Meyer, Stephen; The Five Dollar Day.

#### **Week 1 - week of January 13 - Introduction;**

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#### **Week 2 - week of January 20:**

Braverman, Harry; Labor and Monopoly Capital,

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#### **Week 3 - week of January 27 - Working Culture in Transition:**

- Dawley, Alan; Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn;
  - McGaw, Judith; Most Wonderful Machine: Mechanization and Social Change in Berkshire Paper Making, 1801-1885;
  - Shelton, Cynthia; The Mills of Manayunk: Industrialization and Social Conflict in the Philadelphia Region, 1787-1837;
  - Smith, Merritt Roe; Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change;
  - Wallace, Anthony; Rockdale: Growth of an American Village in the Early Industrial Revolution;
  - Zonderman, David; Aspirations and Anxieties: New England Workers and the Mechanized Factory System, 1815-1850;
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**Week 4** - week of February 3:

Licht, Walter; Working for the Railroad.

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**Week 5** - week of February 10 - **Railroads and Mining:**

- Richardson, Reed; The Locomotive Engineer, 1863-1963: A Century of Railway Labor Relations and Work Rules;
  - Stromquist, Shelton; A Generation of Boomers: The Pattern of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th C America;
  - Curran, Daniel; Dead Laws for Dead Men: The Politics of Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Legislation;
  - Dix, Keith; What's a Coal Miner to Do? The Mechanization of Coal Mining;
  - Fishback, Price; Soft Coal, Hard Choices: The Economic Welfare of Bituminous Coal Miners, 1890-1930;
  - Wallace, Anthony; St. Clair: A 19thC Coal Town's Experience with a Disaster-Prone Industry;
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**Week 6** - week of February 17 - **Late 19th-Early 20th Centuries;**

- Brody, David; Steelworkers in America: The Non-Union Era;
- Gabler, Edwin; The American Telegrapher: A Social History, 1860-1900;
- Gilbert, James; Work Without Salvation: America's Intellectuals and Industrial Alienation, 1880-1910;
- Nelson, Daniel; Managers and Workers: Origins of the 20thC Factory System in the US, 1880-1920;
- Rodgers, Daniel; The Work Ethic in Industrial America, 1850-1920;
- Roediger, David and Philip Foner; Our Own Time: A History of American Labor and the Working Day;

***make appointment to consult Dr. Bix on paper topic;***

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**Week 7** - week of February 24 - **Scientific Management:**

- Gilbreth, Frank; Motion Study: A Method, Primer of Scientific Management, and The Writings of the Gilbreths (selections);
  - Haber, Samuel; Efficiency and Uplift: Scientific Management in the Progressive Era 1890-1920;
  - Nadworny, Milton; Scientific Management and the Unions;
  - Nelson, Daniel; Frederick W. Taylor and the Rise of Scientific Management;
  - Nelson, Daniel; Scientific Management Since Taylor;
  - Taylor, Frederick W.; The Principles of Scientific Management and Shop Management;
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**Week 8** - week of March 3:

Aitken, Hugh; Taylorism at Watertown Arsenal.

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**Week 9** - week of March 17:

Meyer, Stephen; The Five Dollar Day.

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**Week 10** - week of March 24 - **Auto-Making and other 20th C Cases:**

- Gartman, David; Auto Slavery: The Labor Process in the American Automobile Industry, 1897-1950;
  - Peterson, Joyce Shaw; American Automobile Workers, 1900-1933;
  - Gross, Laurence; The Course of Industrial Decline: the Boott Cotton Mills of Lowell, Mass 1835-1955;
  - Nelson, Daniel; Farm and Factory: Workers in the Midwest, 1880-1990;
  - Nelson, Daniel; American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor, 1900-1941;
  - Rogers, Theresa; Printers Face Automation: the Impact of Technology on Work and Retirement Among Skilled Craftsmen;
  - Ruiz, Vicki; Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the Calif. Food Processing Industry 1930-1950;
  - Scranton, Phil; Figured Tapestry: Production, Markets, and Power in Philadelphia Textiles, 1885-1940;
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**Week 11** - week of March 31 - **Clerical work, service, and gender in the early 20th C:**

- Cooper, Patricia; Once a Cigar Maker: Men, Women, and Work Culture in American Cigar Factories, 1900-1919;
  - Davies, Margery; Woman's Place is at the Typewriter: Office Work and Office Workers, 1870-1930;
  - Greenwald, Maurine; Women, War, and Work: The Impact of WWI on Women Workers in the US;
  - Kwolek-Folland, Angel; Engendering Business: Men and Women in the Corporate Office, 1870-1930;
  - Norwood, Stephen; Labor's Flaming Youth: Telephone Operators and Worker Militancy, 1878-1923;
  - Strom, Sharon; Beyond the Typewriter: Gender, Class, and the Origins of Modern American Office Work, 1900-1930;
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**Week 12** - week of April 7 - ***preliminary version of paper due***;

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**Week 13** - week of April 14 - ***in-class paper critiques***;

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**Week 14** - week of April 21 - **Late 20th C Labor and Technology:**

- Burawoy, Michael; Manufacturing Consent;

- Edwards, Richard; Contested Terrain: the Transformation of the Workplace in the 20thC;
  - Gordon, David et al; Segmented Work, Divided Workers: The Historical Transformation of Labor in the United States;
  - Jellison, Katherine; Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963;
  - Kraft, Phil; Programmers and Managers: The Routinization of Computer Programming in the US;
  - Meissner, Martin; Technology and the Worker;
  - Montgomery, David; Workers' Control in America;
  - Shepard, Jon; Automation and Alienation: A Study of Office and Factory Workers;
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**Week 15** - week of April 28:

Noble, David; Forces of Production.

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***Final version of papers due*** - Monday, May 5