

ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Course Syllabus

Social Science and Public Service Division

HIS 1005 – American Labor History

Date: Spring 2002
Semester Hours: Three hours
Prerequisite: None
Lecture: 3.0 hrs. per week
Labs: None
Offered: Spring, Fall
Instructor: Staff

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of the history of workers in America from colonial times to today, with an emphasis on the relationship between workers and industrialization. The role of work, the history and development of labor unions, and the impact of a modern global economy on workers are some of the topics, which will be studied.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:

Outcome #1: The student will be able to contrast the economic characteristics of labor to those of equipment or other factors in production.

Competency 1.1: The student will demonstrate understanding of labor as an economic commodity.

Competency 1.2: The student will demonstrate understanding of the contributing ideologies to labor.

Outcome #2: The student will be able to explain the reasons for the development of labor unions in America.

Competency 2.1: The student will be able to identify the various events characterizing the early history of labor.

Competency 2.2: The student recognize and identify the characteristics of the early labor unions, especially in New York and Philadelphia.

Outcome #3: The student will be able to explain the reasons for the difficulties, and ultimate demise, of most early labor unions in America.

Competency 3.1: The student will be able to identify, analyze, and report the problems noted in the early unions.

Competency 3.2: The student will be able to discuss the Haymarket Riot of 1887, as a case illustration of the problems in early unions.

Outcome #4: The student will trace the reasons for development and success of the AFL, and later the CIO.

Competency 4.1: The student will be able to identify precipitating events from the Post-Civil War Industrial Revolution.

Competency 4.2: The student will be able to identify the various events characterizing modern unionism to World War I, including the development of the AFL in 1881.

Competency 4.3: The student will demonstrate familiarity with the New Deal, and its contribution to the founding of the CIO.

Outcome #5: The student will be able to summarize and analyze the successes and problems of American labor unions in the three decades following World War II.

Competency 5.1: The student will be able to characterize the labor issues emerging during World War II.

Competency 5.2: The student will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss the Postwar issues preceding the creation of the AFL-CIO.

Competency 5.3: The student will be able to identify internal problems of the labor unions contributing to leadership disputes and AFL-CIO discord.

Outcome #6: The student will be able to see the hopes and challenges facing American labor unions today, as well as assessing their future in the global economy of the Twenty-First Century.

Competency 6.1: The student will be able to identify current labor laws which contribute to today's legal climate.

Competency 6.2: The student will be able to identify, analyze and discuss the tactics available to both labor and to employers.

Competency 6.3: The student will demonstrate familiarity with the problems facing today's labor unions.

Competency 6.4: The student will demonstrate familiarity with the hopes for the future, including global economics, changes in technology and the U.S. economy.

Outcome #7: The student will be able to trace the history of labor unions in the North Central region of Illinois.

Competency 7.1: The student will be able to identify and describe the labor unions from area factories, mining, trade/craft and utilities.

Outcome #8: The student will examine the contemporary American Labor Union as to its structure, governance, and the meaning of contract provisions.

Competency 8.1: The student will understand and be able to define contract provisions, including seniority rights, grievance and grievance procedures, overtime and fringe benefits.

COURSE CONTENT:

- I. Introduction
- II. Early History of Labor
- III. The Post-Civil War Industrial Revolution
- IV. Modern Unionism to World War I
- V. Postwar Prosperity, Then Bust
- VI. The New Deal and the CIO
- VII. World War II
- VIII. Postwar Issues
- IX. Labor Unions: Internal Problems in the 1950's and 1960's
- X. Labor and Labor Unions Today

- XI. Labor Unions in North Central Illinois
- XII. The Union Contract – What It Is
- XIII. Special Topics/Further Exploration/Special Issues

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

- 1. Textbook – assigned readings to provide a background for classroom activity
- 2. Lecture – a means of providing supplementary and complementary material
- 3. Class Discussions – a way to bring out and develop student attitudes, ideas, and critical thinking
- 4. Audio-visual materials
- 5. Outside materials – an excellent means of supplementing the textbook with the latest information on a topic, as well as cover more locally-orientated material.
- 6. Tests – a means of evaluating student progress
- 7. Oral reports – enable students to research and report to class on some topic of specific importance or interest.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Read assigned material in textbook
- 2. Attend class
- 3. Take notes on lecture material
- 4. Participate in class discussion
- 5. Deliver brief (10 minutes) oral report to class

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

- 1. Examinations
- 2. Oral report

TEXTBOOK:

Labor in America: A History by Foster Dulles and Melvyn Dubofsky (1993, Harlan Davidson, Inc., Wheeling, Illinois)