

California State University, Los Angeles
History Department
HIST 3700 Labor History
Spring 2017

Instructor	Ángela Vergara
Office Location	King Hall 4033
Email	avergar@calstatela.edu
Office Hours	M 3:50-5:50 PM and F 12-1:00 PM
Class Days/Time	M-W-F 11-11:50 AM
Classroom	KH B 2017

Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to the fields of labor studies and labor history. It focuses on the multiple aspects related to people's work experience (e.g., labor relations, work hazards, technology, history, education, culture, diversity, discrimination), providing a critical understanding of the importance of labor in an increasingly globalized world. Special emphasis will be paid to how class, race, ethnicity, gender, age, and nationality shaped working experiences.

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of the history of labor and theories of class and work.
- Recognize and analyze the most important theoretical and historical approaches to the study of work and working people.
- Demonstrate capacity to conduct basic research assignments, including oral history interviews, survey analysis, and ethnography observations.
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between local and global working conditions.

General Education Requirements: This course is designated as an upper division GE in Social Sciences (D), and it also meets the criteria for GE diversity and GE civic learning (cl). A Civic Learning requirement "gives students opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and values that will prepare them for active participation in civic life to make a difference in their communities." Through observations, reflections, presentations, discussions, and on-campus projects, students will address the labor issues of our community and reflect on how to make a long-term difference.

Minor in Labor Studies: The course is designed as a required introductory course for the Minor in Labor Studies. The minor in Labor Studies is an 18-units minor housed in the history department, providing students with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of labor issues in an increasingly globalized economy. HIST 3600 is one of the required courses for the minor. For more information about the minor please contact prof. Ángela Vergara avergar@calstatela.edu

Required readings: Required readings include 3 books available at the bookstore and short articles available electronically on Moodle. Please make the time to find, download and read ALL assigned readings. Please bring your readings to class (in electronic format or paper) and be ready to discuss!

- Argersinger, Jo Ann E. 2009. *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History With Documents*. Bedford Series in History and Culture. Boston: Bedford/st Martins.
- Brugge, Doug, Timothy Benally, and Esther Yazzie-Lewis. 2006. *The Navajo People and Uranium Mining*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Frank, Dana. 2005. *Bananeras: Women Transforming the Banana Unions of Latin America*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press.

Assignments and Grading Policy: The class is based on students' active participation and engagement, and attendance is mandatory. All readings, in-class and home assignments, and papers are integral part of the course. In order to pass the class, students must complete ALL ASSIGNMENTS. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day (including weekends), and assignments older than 1 week will not be accepted.

- Attendance and Participation 10 %
- 1 Civic Learning Assignment 25 % (group)
- Paper 25 %
- Final civic learning assignment 40 % -- broken as followed:
 - a. Topic / preliminary research report 5 % (group)
 - b. Final display 25% (group)
 - c. Personal reflection 10 %

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes: <https://get.calstatela.edu/Registrar.htm> . I DO NOT DROP STUDENTS!

American with Disabilities Act (ADA): Reasonable accommodation will be provided to any student who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities and requests needed accommodation.

Outline of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1 (Jan. 23-27): Introduction to Labor Studies, Labor History, and Civic Learning.

Part I: Working People and Industrialization

Week 2 (Jan. 30-Feb. 3): The Industrial Revolution

Reading: *The Triangle Fire*, introduction.

Week 3 (Feb. 6-Feb. 10) Living and Working Conditions in the Industrial City

Reading: *The Triangle Fire*, pp. 37-72

Week 4 (Feb. 13-17): Labor demands and social reform
Reading: *The Triangle Fire*, pp. 73-120.

Week 5 (Feb.20-24): Civic Learning Project I
Feb. 20 (No Class: Research Day)
Feb. 22 & 24 Group Presentations and Discussion

Part II: Working People in the 20th century

Week 6 (Feb. 27-March 3): Mass Production and the Assembly Line

Week 7 (March 6-10): Modern Production, Modern Pollution and New Hazards
Reading: *Navajo People and Uranium Mining* (pp. 1-128)

Week 8 (March 13-17): Working People and Social Justice, 1960s-1970s
Reading: *Navajo People and Uranium Mining* (finish)

Week 9 (March 20-24): Working People and Social Justice, 1960s-1970s
March 22: paper due
Film: Chavez

Spring Break March 27-April 2

Part III: Globalization and the Global South

Week 10 (April 3-7): Globalization and Neoliberalism
Reading: *Bananeras* (introduction)

Week 11 (April 10-14)
Reading: *Bananeras* (chapters 1-2-3)
Film: Maquilapolis

Week 12 (April 17-21)
Research Week - Topic and bibliography due (April 21)

Week 13 (April 24-28)
Reading: *Bananeras* (finish)

Week 14 (May 1-5)
Projects displayed / presented

Week 15 (May 8-12) Wrap up

Wed. May 17: Final Examination (personal reflection paper):