History 890.02 Special Topics
Readings in 19th and 20th Century American Labor History
Fall 2013--Thursday 2:00-4:50 p.m.
TBA
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History 899.02 is a graduate reading seminar in American labor history intended for those students doing research as well as those writing M.A. and doctoral theses. Graduate students from fields other than U.S. history are welcome to take part. Seminar students will read texts and articles by scholars whose work represents important contributions to scholarship, criticism, and/or theory, in a wide variety of fields of American labor history. Our readings and discussions will take a broad historical perspective, including links with topics like economic development and group inequality; class, gender, and racial formation; patterns of community and family; and collective protest and mobilization from the end of World War II to the present. We will examine historical texts and the issues that shape their interpretations to stimulate discussion of key questions in the field, and to illuminate the explanatory and descriptive power of multidisciplinary approaches and modes of analysis. The objective of this seminar then is to provide you with new ways in which to investigate the role of labor history in twentieth and twenty- first century America. History 899.02 reading participants are strongly encouraged to take this chance to present and discuss their own work in progress.

Course Requirements:

A) In addition to reading the assigned weekly text, read one article from the weekly supplemental reading list and one other found by you to give you some practice at finding relevant articles. Your critiques will cover the supplemental article of your choice (and the one found by you) to emphasize comparison of the strengths and weaknesses of each article.

B) Everyone will be required to participate in the class discussions. This is a graduate seminar, and it depends upon you the participant for its energy and vitality.

C) You have two choices for your writing assignment. [Negotiable] Select the one that fits your own needs at this time in your academic career. You will turn in a proposal with a bibliography by the third week of class.

1. Historiographical paper (10-12 pages): Choose ten books and articles that relate to a specific historiographical question raised by the core and supplemental readings. Discuss in your paper what the implications of this question are to your own research, and use those implications to guide your discussion of the arguments and contributions of your selected readings. 2. "State of the Field" Essay (10-12 pages): You will write an essay about the state of the field in your discipline as it relates to some of the questions we are addressing in the seminar.

Course Readings:

Ava Chomsky, *Linked Labor Histories: New England, Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class*

Peter Cole, *Wobblies on the Waterfront: Interracial Unionism in Progressive-Era Philadelphia*

Deborah Fink, *Cutting into the Meatpacking Line: Workers and Change in the Rural Midwest*

Matt Garcia, *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Worker Movement*

Erik S. Gelman, *Death Blow to Jim Crow: The National Negro Congress and the Rise of Militant Civil Rights*

Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man's Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor*

William P. Jones, *The March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom, and the Forgotten History of the Civil Rights Movement*

Joseph McCartin, *Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America*

Brian Purnell, *Fighting Jim Crow in the County of Kings: The Congress of Racial Equality in Brooklyn*

Barbara Ransby, *Eslanda: The Large and Unconventional Life of Mrs. Paul Robeson*

David R. Roediger and Elizabeth D. Esch, *The Production of Difference: Race and the Management of Labor in U.S. History*

Landon R. Y. Storrs, *The Second Red Scare and the Unmaking of the New Deal Left*