LST 201: Work and Labor in a Global Economy

Instructor: Ian J. Jesse (ian.jesse@maine.edu)
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Welcome to LST 201

Provides a critical analysis of U.S. labor and the workplace from a labor studies perspective, which comprises an academic area of study encompassing: work, employees, the labor movement and organizations, employment law and relations, labor economics, and the sociology of work. Topics include: a historical overview of labor, social class and work, the role of conflict, power, and inequality, including gender, race, and class, the evolution of employment law and labor relations, organization and role of unions, workforce diversity and demographics, labor and contemporary issues involving technology, corporations, politics, and the global economy.

General Education Requirements: Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions Requirement.

This online course is designed for motivated and self-directed learners. To participate in this course students will need access to a computer, a reliable internet connection, and the University of Maine's Brightspace. You *must* back up your work and be able to use other computers if you have problems with your primary machine. Computers are available for use on campus, at local public libraries, etc. Each week you will be doing assigned readings, viewing audio/visual material, posting responses, and participating in online discussions.

You should feel free to contact me if you have any questions. The best way to contact me is via email. I check email regularly and return emails within twenty-four hours. If I have not responded within twenty-four hours you should assume I did not get your email and resend it. I return all graded work via Brightspace as quickly as possible. Please note: you will need to access Brightspace daily to check for announcements, changes, or further instructions.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a greater understanding of the U.S. labor movement and unions in the U.S., using historical, political, economic, and sociological perspectives.

2. To understand the basic concepts used in a critical analysis of work, unions, labor and social class.

3. To understand the idea of social structure, the structural basis of social inequality, and social processes which reproduce systems of inequality.

4. To gain a greater understanding of the nature and consequences of globalization, and the implications of globalization for jobs and employment in the U.S. and abroad.

5. To gain a greater understanding of the roles of gender, race, class, and immigration, in the labor movement, the economy and the workplace.

Required Readings

There are no required books to purchase for this course. All other readings will be made available as PDF or links on Brightspace. Some scans may be sideways and difficult to read on a screen and may need to be printed. Students are responsible for accessing these readings and determining the most effective way to read them.

Technical Requirements

You need internet access to take this class. We will be accessing audio and video files in various formats so a fast connection is essential. All documents/readings will be in pdf format so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance for this course please contact Technical Support Services at: **techsupport@maine.edu** You may also call: **207.581.2506 or 800.696.4357.** You will need to contact IT for help logging into the course and for all other technical issues. For more information on IT support please visit: https://umaine.edu/it/who-to-contact/

Brightspace

This course uses Brightspace—an online portal that provides access to course materials, assignments, discussions, and announcements. Brightspace is only accessible to registered students, the instructors, and the administrators.

Course Requirements/Assessment

Weekly Papers	30%
Midterm	20%
Research Paper	30%
Final Paper	20%

Further information and assignment instructions will be posted to Brightspace.

Weekly Papers: To gauge engagement and comprehension of assigned materials, students will submit a weekly paper. These assignments are in lieu of regular discussion board activity that is typical with an online class. Questions to help guide your paper will be included at the end of the lesson introduction, or in a course announcement. Each paper should be no less than 2 complete double-spaced pages in length. Papers should be free of grammatical and mechanical issues, and contain a proper introduction and conclusion. **Citations MUST be included.** Please review the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus for weekly paper due dates.

Research Paper: This course requires the completion of a research paper on a topic related to the history of work and labor in a global context. This assignment will require the construction of a well-supported thesis and the use of both primary and secondary sources. More information on this assignment will be posted to Brightspace.

Midterm: The midterm will be a timed short-answer style test administered through Brightspace. The questions will be related to content covered during the first half of the semester.

Final: The final will consist of a single essay question distributed at least one week before the due date. This essay will **NOT** require outside research. Students will be asked to write about how work and labor have changed over time in a global context and include broad course themes. A strong final paper will be no less than 5 double-spaced pages properly formatted. More information on this assignment will posted to Brightspace.

Late Assignment Policy

Students are responsible to communicate with the instructor prior to the assignment due date if special circumstances prevent timely completion of course work. Extensions are granted at the instructor's discretion. I can be a bit flexible here so if you are going to miss a deadline please contact me. Communication is key.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that your participation in this class will reflect the University's standards of **academic honesty**. Plagiarism, "patchwriting," recycling previous assignments, falsification or misrepresentation of information, deception, and using generative programs (such as ChatGPT) to write or edit your work are all violations of the University of Maine System Student Conduct Code and are grounds for failure of the course. You can review the conduct code at http://bit.ly/umconductcode.

Non-Sexist Language

Students are expected to communicate with others using **non-sexist language**: verbal or nonverbal communication that is inclusive and does not reflect a bias based on sex. Language is sexist if it discriminates because of one's sex; reinforces the idea of one sex's superiority; or perpetuates sex and gender role stereotypes. Language that ignores, limits, or trivializes women and girls, and language that excludes or belittles women's values, perspectives, and experiences is sexist, as is any comparable language related to men and boys. Often language can unintentionally communicate sexism.

Accommodation

This course is built on inclusivity and collaborative learning, and we strive to create a learning environment conducive for everyone to participate. If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disability Services in East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

Campus Sexual Discrimination Policy

Sexual Discrimination Reporting: The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity. Behaviors that can be "sexual discrimination" include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination? The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports? An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution's obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution's ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution's response. The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources: For confidential resources on campus: **Counseling Center (207-581-1392)** or **Cutler Health Center (207-581-4000)**. For confidential resources off campus: **Rape Response Services (1-800-310-0000)** or **Spruce Run** (**1-800-863-9909)**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help: For support services on campus: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention (207-581-1406)**; **Office of Community Standards (207-581-1409**); **University of Maine Police (207-581-4040 or 911)**. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at https://umaine.edu/eo/resources/sexual-violence-resources-ums-handbook/

Course Schedule

Date	Lesson	Due
Week 1 January 16-January 21	Introductions; Understanding Primary and Secondary Sources; Defining Globalization	Introduction Post and Pre Semester Knowledge Check due by January 21 by 11:59pm
Week 2 January 22-January 26	The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Labor	Weekly Paper due Friday January 26 by 11:59pm
Week 3 January 29-February 2	Separate Spheres	Weekly Paper due Friday February 2 by 11:59pm
Week 4 February 5-February 9	The Bastardization of Craft	Weekly Paper due Friday February 9 by 11:59pm
Week 5 February 12-February 16	Head-Work vs Hand-Work: White-Collar Workers	Weekly Paper due Friday February 16 by 11:59pm;
Week 6 February 19-Febrary 23	The Industrial Revolution	Weekly Paper due Friday February 23 by 11:59pm;
Week 7 February 26-March 1	Increasing Labor Tension	Weekly Paper due Friday March 1 at 11:59pm ***Research paper proposal and working bibliography due by March 1 by 11:59pm**
Week 8 March 4-March 8	American Consumerism and Agricultural Labor Abroad	Weekly Paper due Friday March 8 by 11:59pm ***MIDTERM DUE BY MARCH 8, 12pm (noon)**
SPRING BREAK **MARCH 11-17**		
Week 9 March 18-March 22	Unions in the Twentieth Century	Weekly Paper due Friday March 22 by 11:59pm

Week 10 March 25-March 29	Women Workers and WWII	Weekly Paper due Friday March 29 by 11:59pm;
Writing Week **Research paper due by April 5 by 12:00pm (noon)**		
Week 12 April 8-April 12	NAFTA	Weekly Paper due Friday April 12 by 11:59pm
Week 13 April 15-April 19	Anti-Work and The Great Resignation	Weekly Paper due Friday April 19 by 11:59pm
Week 14 April 22-April 26	Future Work	Weekly Paper due Friday April 26 at 11:59pm
FINAL DUE BY MAY 3 AT 11:59pm		

Course Schedule subject to change at instructor's discretion