The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to the sociology of work, labor, and occupations. By the end of the semester, students will have a working knowledge of classical and contemporary perspectives, and will produce a seminar paper that either synthesizes current knowledge or proposes research that would advance the field. As in all graduate seminars, adequate preparation and participation in class discussions are mandatory.

**JOB REQUIREMENTS**

*Memos (6):* Six one-page reading memos are due throughout the semester, as indicated below. You can upload them to a D2L dropbox before 8PM on Monday.

*Presentations (2):* Course participants must lead discussion for one class, and also give a short presentation at the end of the semester summarizing his or her course project.

*Paper (1):* Students will turn in a paper (10 page minimum; 20 page maximum). The paper could be a theory piece (comparing two traditions, interrogating a paradigm, etc); it could propose an empirical study; or it could write up research undertaken during the semester (the student may have a project underway or in mind). Due date TBA.

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

The following books are required for this class. All other readings should be on D2L.

Introduction
Week 1 (Thur, Aug 28)

The Politics of Production Program
Week 2 (Tues, Sept 2)  ***MEMO 1 due.
Week 2 (Thur, Sept 4)

From Despotism to Hegemony
Week 3 (Tues, Sept 9):
  • Braverman. Labor and Monopoly Capital. (Chs 1-4; i.e., pp. 45-123)
Week 3 (Thur, Sept 11):
  • Burawoy. The Politics of Production. (pp. 122-8)

The Fordist Employment Model
Week 4 (Tues, Sept 16)  ***MEMO 2 due.
  • Sallaz. “Classifying Labor” (pp. 41-65 in LES)
Week 4 (Thur, Sept 18)
  • Mofford. Child Labor in America.

Negotiating the End of Fordism (Hegemonic Despotism)
Week 5 (Tues, Sept 23)
  • Milkman. Farewell to the Factory. Ch. 1, 2, 3 (pp. 1-92)
Week 5 (Thur, Sept 25)
  • Milkman. Farewell to the Factory. Ch. 4, 5 (pp. 93-180)

Emergent Forms of Labor
Week 6 (Tues, Sept 30)  ***MEMO 3 due.
  • Sallaz. “Commensurating Labor” (pp. 66-87 in LES)
Week 6 (Tues, Thur, Oct 2)
  • Hochschild. The Managed Heart.

Week 7 (Tues, Oct 7; Thur, Oct 9)
  • Leidner. Fast Food, Fast Talk. (pp. 1-85 for Tues; pp. 86-177 for Thur)
How Labor Markets Really Work

Week 8 (Tues, Oct 14)
- Sallaz. “Making Labor Markets.” (pp. 88-109 in LES)

***MEMO 4 due.

Week 8 (Thur, Oct 16)

Week 9 (Tues, Oct 21; Thur, Oct 23)
- Sharone. Flawed System/Flawed Self. (pp. 1-85 for Tues; pp. 86-190 for Thur)

Labor Process Debates

Week 10 (Tues, Oct 28)
- Sallaz, “Controlling Labor” (pp. 110-133 in LES)

***MEMO 5 due.

Week 10 (Thur, Oct 30)

Case Study: Call Centers

Week 11 (Tues, Nov 4)

Week 11 (Thur, Nov 6)

Labor, Migration, Globalization

Week 12 (Thur, Nov 13)
- Parrenas. Illicit Flirtations.

Week 13 (Tues, Nov 18)
- Sallaz “Labor and Group-Making” (pp. 134-156 in LES)

***MEMO 6 due.

Week 13 (Thur, Nov 20)
- Silver. 2003. Forces of Labor

Week 14 (Tues, Nov 25)
- Reich. 2012. With God on our Side.

Week 15 (Tues, Dec 2; Thur, Dec 4)
- Student presentations.

Week 16 (Tues, Dec 9)
- Student presentations.