COURSE DESCRIPTION: Problems and issues in labor economics; wages, hours, and working conditions; trade unionism in the United States; interrelationship of wages, productivity and employment; labor in relation to business, government and economic change; economics of social insurance; collective bargaining and techniques of arbitration; current conditions.

SUMMARY: This course focuses on the major issues affecting US workers and their workplaces with particular emphasis on public policy. Unlike more traditional labor courses, this course investigates labor issues through the medium of popular film, with the belief that movies unveil the human dimensions of labor in ways different from more traditional means. After a brief introduction to various labor theories, we will discuss and analyze various labor topics. Specific topics addressed in this course are unemployment, collective bargaining, discrimination, etc. through films such as The Corporation, Wall Street, Antz, The Full Monty, Matewan, and Bread & Roses, among others. The prerequisite for the course is any previous economics course.

TEXTS:
- Various Assigned Readings available on Blackboard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this class, students should have a substantial understanding of the following concepts/ideas/institutions/theories:
- The competing/different theoretical approaches economists use to examine the labor market.
- How wages are determined.
- How the US labor movement and workplace has evolved and how work has changed over the last 150 years or so, with particular understanding of how unions have affected public policy and laws.
- How unions are formed, the collective bargaining process, the consequences of strikes/lockouts.
- The consequences of unemployment.
- Discrimination in the workplace and its affects on workers, society, and productivity. Students will also understand that discrimination can take many forms, but particular emphasis will be on race, gender, and sexual preference.
- How immigration has affected the US workplace.
- Structural changes in the workplace and how “Green” jobs are evolving in the US labor market.

EXAMS: There will be 1 in-class mid-term exam on October 26, 2015. There will also be a final exam take-home exam, which will be handed out on the last day of classes, December 14th and will be due December 19th by noon on BlackBoard. The final exam must be typed (Times 12 font) and double-spaced. Please note that take-home exams

*The best way to communicate with me is through the messaging function on Blackboard. Please only email me under extreme circumstances—my email gets full quickly and I don’t want your questions/comments/advice or whatever lost somehow! My students are NUMBER 1 and this will help me continue this tradition.
must be an individual student’s work, i.e. no working with others. Exams submitted late will be penalized 10 points for each day they are tardy. To be clear, if you hand in your exam at 12:01 PM on the 20th, the highest possible grade will be 90%. If you hand in your exam after noon on the 21st, but before noon on the 22nd, the highest possible grade will be 80%. If you hand in your exam after noon on the 22nd, but before noon on the 23rd, the highest possible grade will be 70%. No exams will be accepted after December 23 at noon. No make-ups for exams unless approved by me.

ASSIGNMENTS/OBSERVATIONS: Students must complete all of the assigned readings and view the scheduled films PRIOR to the class in which they are scheduled. The readings and the movies supplement each other; therefore, to gain a full appreciation class preparation is imperative. All students must be prepared to discuss the integration of the readings with the film shown each week. To facilitate discussion, each student is required to come to class with an interesting observation and/or question(s) about the how the readings and the films reinforce, contradict, or interact with each other. All observations/questions should be put into Blackboard by their respective due dates. You will receive credit for your observations; however, I will grade at least 6 students’ per week at random. One paragraph is all that is required. Observations will be due prior to each Monday class except the first week, the week of the midterm, and the week you give your presentation. No late observations will be accepted, unless previously approved by me. PLEASE NOTE, OBSERVATIONS ARE NOT SUMMARIES OF THE ARTICLES. The lowest 2 observation grades will be dropped.

CURRENT EVENTS: Knowing what is currently happening in the “real world” is extremely important in this class, thus you are required to read the newspaper often. Each class will begin with a discussion of what is going on with workers and/or the labor movement. You are to bring your article with you.

PRESENTATIONS: Each student, or group of students, will be required to present and lead a discussion on one or more of the assigned readings plus external materials found by the student. You are expected to go beyond the assigned readings and film for your presentation. This means that you might look to current events or other films that give an additional breadth to the presentation. You may make your presentation individually or in a group.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is extremely important for this course; therefore, it will be taken at every class. To receive full credit for attendance, you must be at every class. If you miss two or three, the most you will earn is 7% or 3% of the attendance grade respectively. If you miss 5 or more classes, you will fail the class. The official record is my class log. If you miss an assignment, you will receive no credit for it. Please note that only under extreme situations, with my prior approval, will there be any exception to this policy. So, please save your absences for when you are truly sick or cannot make it. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED WORK, unless approved by me.

EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Preparation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Events</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
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2
Week 1  EMPLOYMENT IN THE US (Overview)
August 31st and September 2nd.
- Introductions
- Film: Wall Street (126 minutes) 73

Week 2  LABOR ECONOMIC THEORIES I
September 9th & 10th.
- Marx, Karl, Wage-Labour and Capital. (the entire pamphlet)
  http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/index.htm
- Cassidy, John, “The Return of Karl Marx.”
  http://www.newyorker.com/archive/1997/10/20/1997_10_20_248_TNY_CARDS_000379653
- Smith, Adam, “The Wealth of Nations” Book 1, Chapter X.
  http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN4.html#B.I,%20%20Ch.10,%20Of%20Wages%20and%20Profit%20in%20the%20Different%20Employments%20of%20Labour%20and%20Stock
- Film: The Corporation (145 minutes) 323

Week 3  LABOR ECONOMIC THEORIES II
September 16th and 21st
- Marshall, Alfred, Principles of Economics, Book VI, Chapters 3-5
- Wolff, Richard D., “Marxian Class Analysis and Economics”
- Becker, Gary S., “Human Capital—A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis”
- Mulder, Catherine P. “It’s the Time of Your Life.”
- Films, Double Feature Week: The Bee Movie (91 minutes) 854 & Antz (83 minutes) 853

Week 4  HISTORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT
September 28th & 30th
- AFL-CIO, "A Short History of American Labor"
  http://www.509seiu.com/aflciohistory.htm
- Mantsios, Gregory, "What Does Labor Stand For?
- Freeman, Richard & Medoff, James, "What Do Unions Do?"
- Brecher, Jeremy, "May Day"
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t01.htm,
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t02.htm,
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t03.htm,
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t04.htm,
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t05.htm
- Film: Matewan (140 minutes)

Week 5  LABOR ORGANIZING
October 5th and 7th
- In Class Film: Live Nude Girls Unite (72 minutes) in class.
- Masters, Marick F., "Unions at the Crossroads"
- Nussbaum, Karen, "Bye-Bye to Pinkie Rings: Working Women Transform Unions"
- Eisenscher, Michael, "Beyond Mobilization: How Labor Can Transform Itself"
- Liebowitz, Barry, “Medical Doctors Turn to Unions”
- Film: Norma Rae (114 minutes) 174

Week 6 & 7  
DEmocracy at work
October 14th, 19th & 21st

October 26th Midterm Exam (In Class)

Week 8 & 9  
Unions and class transformation
October 28th, November 2nd, & 4th

Week 10  
Unemployment (Presentations)
November 9th & 11th
- Bluestone, Barry and Harrison, Bennett, "The Costs of Unemployment"
- Miller, Joan and Jeannette Wicks-Lim. “Unemployment: A Jobs Deficit or a Skills Deficit?”
- Dougherty, Laurie, "Jack And Me: I Was Downsized-GE Got Rich"
- Film: The Full Monty (91 minutes) 859

Week 11  
Workplace discrimination: Gender (Presentations)
November 16th & 18th
- Feiner, Susan, "The Conservative/Free Market, the Liberal/Imperfectionist, and the Radical/Exploitation
- Coleman, Margaret S. “Undercounted and Underpaid Heroines”
- Power, Marilyn, "Affirmative Action: Employers, Politics, and Labor"
- Hoffman, Carl, "Reopening the Affirmative Action Debate"
- North Country (126 minutes)

Week 12  
Workplace discrimination: Race (Presentations)
November 23rd & 25th
- Honey, Michael, “Black Workers Remember”
- Solow, Robert, "How Race and Gender Issues Arise in Economics"
- Loury, Glen, "Racial Inequality in the American Economy Today"
- Boulding, Kenneth, "Toward a Theory of Discrimination"
- Breslow, Marc, "The Racial Divide Widens"
- Williams, Michael Paul, “James Farmer”
- Farmer, James, "Affirmative Action: Problems and Prospects"
- Just "a few" Examples of WHITE PRIVILEGE  http://seamonkey.ed.asu.edu/~mcisaac/emc598ge/Unpacking.html
- Film: Trading Places

Week 13  
Workplace discrimination: Sexual Orientation (Presentations)
November 30th & December 2
- In Class Film: Out At Work (58 minutes)
• Elmslie, Bruce and Edinaldo Tebaldi. “Sexual Orientation and Labor Market Discrimination.”
• Film: Philadelphia (119 minutes)

Week 14 IMMIGRATION (Presentations)
December 7th & 9th
• Deutsch, B. “Ampersand: Immigration History”
• Rachleff, Peter. “Immigrant Rights are Labor Rights”
  http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2008/rachleff190808.html
• Bacon, David. “The Real Political Purpose of the ICE Raids”
• Perez de Alejo, Carlos. “Building a Better Austin from Below”
• Film: Bread & Roses (110 minutes) 851

Week 15 LABOR'S FUTURE: Where do we go from here and what can be done? Are “Green Jobs” our future?
December 14th
• Wicks-Lim, Jeannette. “We Need a (Green) Jobs Program.”
• America Beyond Capitalism
• Film: Occupation
• Discussion, wrap up and final exam distributed

FRIENDLY EXPECTATIONS

➢ Students are expected to have read and view all the required assignments PRIOR to class; this includes texts, films as well as newspapers and any additional readings handed out in class. Footnotes typically have helpful information in them, so please read them.

➢ Class participation is strongly encouraged and will help to raise your grade.

➢ Students are expected to attend class on time. If you must leave class early, please let me know and sit by the door. Try to leave in an inconspicuous manner.

➢ Students are expected to shut off cell phones and any electronic devices. Texting is prohibited in class. Students must refrain from using computers in class unless there is a specific exercise that is assigned. If you have any reason why this might be burdensome, please come talk to me. For example, if you have a sick child at home, you will be permitted to leave your cell phone on vibrate and take the call outside of the classroom.

➢ If you should have a documented learning disability, please get me the paperwork as soon as possible.

➢ Cheating, Plagiarism and any other form of student misconduct are unacceptable. Please see the college’s policies in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin. If caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment, quiz or test, you will fail that particular assignment. If there is a second violation, you will fail the course.

Below is the college’s official policy:
Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require
citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin, http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php , see Chapter IV Academic Standards)

**Plagiarism detection software** - the College subscribes to Turnitin.com and Blackboard has a similar module called SafeAssign. If you will be using any plagiarism detection software in your course, you must state it on the syllabus.

- Students are expected to come prepared for any test, and/or assignment. There will be **NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED TESTS AND/OR ASSIGNMENTS** unless approved by me.
- Any assignments **must** be submitted on BlackBoard
- Students are expected to come to my office and to seek my help or that of classmates if they do not understand the material. See me immediately if you believe you are falling behind. Either I will help you or I will refer you to someone who can.
- Email is **NOT** the best way to get in touch with me. My email address is: cmulder@jjay.cuny.edu, please only email me in an emergency and you **must** include your exact class in the subject line. The best way to get in touch with me is via the messaging function in BlackBoard. Please let me know if you are having any problems with the class, work schedules, personal issues, whatever; I will try my best to accommodate most requests/issues. Any information you provide to me will be held with the utmost confidentiality.
- If you have a question that would be of interest to the entire class, please post those on the discussion board in BlackBoard.
- Please be respectful of other people’s opinions. This class will address some “sensitive” topics and there is bound to be a variety of ideological slants with regard to them and that’s great!! However, while we do not have to agree with each other, let’s use this as a time to have an intellectual discussion/debate.
- Good Luck and let’s have a wonderful semester.