

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**

COURSE OUTLINE

ECON 120 – INTRODUCTION TO LABOR STUDIES

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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
April 2015**

ECON 120 - Introduction to Labor Studies

- A. TITLE: Introduction to Labor Studies**
- B. COURSE NUMBER: ECON 120**
- C. CREDIT HOURS: 3**
- D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE (OPTIONAL): No**
- E. COURSE LENGTH: 15 weeks**
- F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: As needed**
- G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:
3 lecture hours per week**
- H. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:**

Within an historical context, this course examines the economic, social and technical forces that shape labor conditions in the USA. Among the topics covered are: the changing nature of work under capitalism, collective bargaining, theory and value of workplace skills, and the impact of economic globalization on labor.
- I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES: none**
- J. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to:**

Course Objective	Institutional SLO
a. Analyze the history and development of the labor movement in relation to current issues and future perspectives	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
b. Identify the changing nature of work and technology and explain the impact these changes have on workers, unions, and labor-management relations	1. Communication 4. Inter-Intra Pers. Skills
c. Describe the history and evolution of business organization in the context of social, economic and political forces	1. Communication 4. Inter-Intra Pers. Skills
d. Explain the theory and function of workplace skills--customer focus, quality, teamwork, leadership and problem solving.	1. Communication
e. Develop an annotated bibliography for a topic in labor studies.	1. Communication

K. TEXTS: As determined by the instructor

L. REFERENCES:

Belzer, M. H., (1995). Collective bargaining after deregulation: Do the teamsters still count? *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 48(4), 636-655.

Commons, J. R., (1909). American shoemakers, 1648-1895 A sketch of industrial evolution. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 24, 39-83

Heneman, G., & Sandver, M. (1983). Predicting the outcome of union certification elections: A review of the literature. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 36(4), 537-559.

Katz, H. C., (1993). The decentralization of collective bargaining: A literature review and comparative analysis. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 47(1), 3-22.

Kaufman, B. E., & Hotchkiss, J. L. (2006). *The Economics of Labor Markets* (7th ed). Chicago: Thompson/South-Western

McConnell, C. R., Brue, S. L., & Macpherson, D. A. (2006). *Contemporary Labor Economics* (7th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill/Irwin

Toossi, C. L., (2002, May). A century of change: The U.S. labor force, 1950-2050, *Monthly Labor Review*, 324, 114-148.

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS: Exams, papers, group work, presentations and homework

P. DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:

ECON 120 - Introduction to Labor Studies

I Labor History

- A. Colonial Times
- B. Industrialization
- C. The Growth of National and International Business Enterprises
- D. The Development of Unions
- E. Labor and the Legal System
- F. Race and Ethnicity in the Workforce
- G. Labor in the Age of Technology
- H. The International Labor Movement

II Changes in Work, the Workforce and the Workplace

- A. Change from Agrarian to Industrial Labor
- B. Haymarket and the Struggle for the Eight-Hour Day
- C. Taylorism and the Production Line
- D. Lordstown: Experiments in Team Production
- E. Change From Industrial to Post-Industrial/Technological Work
- F. The Emigration of Work from the Office to the Home
- G. Union Organizing
- H. Management's Resistance to Organization

III Collective Bargaining

- A. History
- B. Legal Structures
- C. Future of Collective Bargaining

IV Business Organization

- A. Markets
- B. Market Structure
- C. Corporate Structure
- D. Workplace Skills
 - 1. Theory
 - 2. Function
- E. Telephone Mergers
- F. Union Mergers
- G. NEA and AFT
- H. Vodaphone
- I. Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions
- J. Antitrust
- K. Deregulation

V Technology

- A. The Science and Technology of Industry (Mining, Telecommunications, Steel)
- B. Definitions and Debates
- C. Control of Technology

VI U.S.A. Workers in a Global Economy

- A. NAFTA (FTAA)
- B. WTO (GATT)
- C. IMF
- D. World Bank
- E. Multinational Corporations
- F. Outsourcing
- G. National and International Impact on Labor of Globalization
- H. The Protest Movement: Who is it? What does it mean?

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: Not applicable to the course