

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE

STUDIES

..... PROPOSED NEW COURSE - HIST 203-3 -
Subject..... THE CANADIAN WORKING CLASS 1820-1980

Date..... OCTOBER 14, 1982

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of October 5, 1982 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.82 - 110, the proposed new course HIST 203-3 - The Canadian Working Class 1820-1980."

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department History

Abbreviation Code: HIST Course Number: 203 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 2-1-0

Title of Course: The Canadian Working Class, 1820-1930

Calendar Description of Course: The development of the working class in the 19th and 20th centuries, with an examination of the nature and changing character of working-class institutions and unions, of the struggles at the workplace, of political action, material life, ideology and culture.

Nature of Course Lecture/tutorial

Prerequisites (or special instructions): History 101 or 102 recommended.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once a year

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 83-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? A. Seager, B. Palmer

3. Objectives of the Course

To provide students with a background in Canadian working class history and to develop their skills in historical research and analysis.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty None

Staff None

Library See attached bibliography.

Audio Visual None

Space None

Equipment None

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FACULTY OF ARTS

5. Approval

Date: June 4, 1982 Sept. 22, 1982

[Signature]
Department Chairman

[Signature]
Dean

Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. each course outline).

Proposal for a 200-level course to be taught by

Seager and Palmer

The Canadian Working Class, 1820-1980

Course Description

The course explores the development of the working class in the 19th and 20th centuries, and examines the nature and changing character of working-class institutions and unions, struggles at the workplace, political action, material life, ideology and culture. Specific attention will be paid to a series of roughly chronological periods, within which the experience of workers and the transformations of productive life can be discussed. Among the areas of consideration will be:

1. diverse experiences of different labouring groups in the period of colonial domination and the trade in staples prior to 1850.
2. emergence of working-class activism and protracted struggle in the years of industrial capitalism's beginnings from the 1850s into the 1870s.
3. labour's upheaval in the 1880s and the disintegration of the 19th century workers movement (centred in the Knights of Labor and the Provincial Workmen's Association) in the crisis of the 1890s.
4. the rise of craft ('business') unionism and the American Federation of Labor in the pre-World War I years and the consequent battles within the labour movement between the advocates of international unionism and more radical socialistic or syndicalistic workers, often based in the West, as well as an outline of the general, working-class struggle to wrestle free from the interventionist state and to combat managerial/employer initiatives like scientific management and the open shop, culminating in the episodic struggles of the war years and the Winnipeg General Strike.
5. crises of the false prosperity of the 1920s and the depression of the 1930s, when communism, the organization of the unemployed and the unorganized, the development of industrial unionism, and the hint of a broad-reaching politics of dissent all affect Canadian labour.
6. World War II and the legitimization of labour.
7. the world of the worker since 1945, when the increasing participation of women in the workplace, the rise of public sector unionism, and new developments in Quebec have revitalized the workers movement at just that point in time when a host of new and threatening social, political, technological, and economic forces challenge Canadian labour.

Suggested Texts

A wide range of material might be used including the CHA pamphlets by Forsey (1812-1902) and Abella (1902-1970s) on Canadian labour; some New Hogtown Press pamphlets like those of Roberts on women workers or Pat Schulz on organising the unemployed in the 1930s; documents collections like Kealey on the Royal

Commission of 1889, Cross on 19th century workingman, or Abella and Millar on labour in 20th century; a very useful source would be Patricia Wijer and Howie Smith's Fighting for Labour: Four Decades of Work in British Columbia (1978) an overview of developments in the province from 1910-1950. Palmer's Working-Class Experience in Canada (forthcoming from Butterworth's) might be used, as might the two 19th century volumes that McClelland & Stewart are about to issue, edited by Kealey and Cross. Morton's Working People and a series of pamphlets on the 1940s by Wayne Roberts are also possibilities.

Lecture Schedule

1. On the Study of Class in Canada
2. Pioneers of Labour: Early Organizations of the Skilled
3. On the Canals and the Rivers
4. Labour and the Battle for Responsible Government
5. The Beginnings of a Working-Class Presence: Class and Community from the 1850s through the 1870s
6. Nine Hours and the Breakdown of Localism
7. The Knights of Labor
8. Miners and Late Nineteenth Century Workers: East & West
9. Pre-Socialist Working-Class Thought: Labour's Eclectic Radicalism of the 1880s
10. The End of an Epoch: The 1890s and the Fragmentation of the Workers Movement
11. Sam Gompers Comes to Canada: International Unionism, 1890-1920
12. The Alternative to 'Business' Unionism: the IWW and General Labour Militancy, 1905-1917
13. The Politics of Labour: Socialism and the ILP
14. The War for Democracy
15. The Calgary Conference and the Winnipeg General Strike
16. One Big Union: The Rise and Fall of the House of Labour
17. Labour in the 1920s: Communists and Others
18. The Depression: Struggles of the Unemployed
19. Industrial Unionism in the 1930s and 1940s
20. Labour's Political Voice: the Rise of the CCF
21. War and the Legitimization of Labour
22. Québec: Quiet-and-not-so-Quiet Revolution
23. Battling Liberals and Conservatives
24. Women and White Collars
25. The Contemporary Crisis of the Canadian Workers Movement
(this leaves one lecture slot open for an in-class test)

Attendance at lectures and tutorials (two lectures, one tutorial weekly)

One in-class test

One final exam

One brief written assignment (a comparative review of two books or some such paper)

Core Reading List
HIST 203

1. ABELLA, Irving, Nationalism, Communism and Canadian Labour (1973).
2. ABELLA, and David MILLAR (eds.), The Canadian Worker in the Twentieth Century (1978).
3. ANGUS, Ian, Canadian Bolsheviks (1981).
4. AVERY, Donald, 'Dangerous Foreigners': European Immigrant Workers and Labour Radicalism in Canada (1979).
5. BABCOCK, Robert, Gompers in Canada (1974).
6. BERCUSON, David J., Confrontation at Winnipeg (1974).
7. BERCUSON, David J., Fools and Wise Men (1978).
8. CRAVEN, Paul, 'An Impartial Umpire': Industrial Relations and the Canadian State, 1900-1911 (1980).
9. CROSS, Michael (ed.), The Workingman in the Nineteenth Century (1974).
10. DRACHE, Daniel (ed.), Only the Beginning: The Manifestos of the Common Front (1972).
11. DUMAS, Evelyn, The Bitter Thirties in Quebec (1975).
12. FORSEY, Eugene, Trade Unions in Canada, 1812-1902 (1982).
13. HANN, Russell, et al (eds.), Primary Sources in Canadian Working Class History (1975).
14. JAMIESON, Stuart, Times of Trouble (1968).
15. KEALEY, Gregory S., and Peter WARRIAN, (eds.), Essays in Canadian Working Class History (1976).
16. KEALEY, Gregory S., Toronto Workers Respond to Industrial Capitalism (1980)
17. LAXER, Robert, Canada's Unions (1976).
18. LOGAN, Harold, Trade Unions in Canada: Their Development and Functioning (1948)
19. McCORMACK, A. Ross, Reformers, Rebels and Revolutionaries (1977).
20. MORTON, Desmond, with Terry COPP, Working People: An Illustrated History of Canadian Labour (1980).
21. PALMER, Bryan, A Culture in Conflict (1979).
22. PENNER, Norman, The Canadian Left (1977).
23. PENNER, Norman, (ed.), Winnipeg: 1919 (1975).
24. PHILLIPS, Paul, No Power Greater: A Century of Labour in B.C. (1967).
25. STEEVES, Dorothy, The Compassionate Rebel (1960; 1977).

Journals

Labour/le travailleur, from 1976 (8 numbers to 1982).

c.c. ✓ Seager/Palmer/Barnhill

Collection Evaluation for New Course Proposal: History 203

The SFU collection has excellent support for this course. Labour history has already been taught at the upper level as well as having been the subject of graduate work in history. And the resources, both primary and secondary, for its parents, British labour history and socialism are here in abundance.

For Canadian labour history the picture is this:

Books

The library has been acquiring Canadian materials in English for all fields inclusively and French language materials selectively since 1965 and purchasing the retrospective books as they are reprinted or appear on the out-of-print market. It has all published bibliographies.

Journals and newspapers

The library has all the Canadian economic, political, and historical journals and all the indexes that exist to them. It has complete runs of the major papers and all available newspaper indexes.

Source materials

These may be required if the plan is to introduce research methods at this level.

The library is a depository for Canadian and B.C. Government publications, purchasing other provinces publications selectively. The Canadian resources include: Debates, Sessional Papers, Censuses, Statistics Canada, Law Reports, Labour Arbitrations, etc.

Two microfiche collections flesh out the 19th and early 20th century: the Toronto Public Library's Canadiana Collection and the Peel collection on the Prairie provinces.

Helen Gray.

Helen Gray,
Senior Librarian for History and Political Science.