Section Syllabus
GE Cluster M24 - Work, Labor and Social Justice in the U.S.
Fall 2008 • Sections 1C and 1D

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Discussion Sections
Section 1C W 9-10:50 Covel L6B
Section 1D W 11-12:50 Covel L6B

Welcome to your discussion section! This section is designed to help you: 1) deepen your understanding of course content, including lectures, readings, films, and presentations from guest speakers; 2) hone your critical thinking and discussion skills; and 3) learn from others in a collaborative environment. Section is your chance to voice your views, questions, agreements, and disagreements about the many issues we will explore in this course.

Section requires serious effort on your part. You must come prepared. You must listen actively and respectfully to others. You must take risks in expressing your opinions or confusion. When everyone does this, sections are useful, rewarding, and challenging. I encourage you to create a study schedule for yourself that allows you sufficient time to read the material, mull it over, write a thoughtful reading response to it, and to come up with a few comments or questions you’d like to bring up during section. Write these down ahead of time and bring them to class.

Attendance
Regular attendance in lecture and section is critical for success in this course. If you must miss a section, please contact me in advance. You should also contact someone else if you are absent in lecture or section to get any materials or notes that you missed. It is your responsibility to keep abreast of course topics and materials.

Participation
I expect you to come prepared to engage in a serious discussion of the material. To be prepared, you must do the reading and come to section ready to talk about it. *Bring assigned readings to section every week.* The quality of your participation counts toward your section grade—if you come every week but do not add to the discussion, it will adversely affect your grade.

Weekly Reading Responses
Students are required to post one response to the weekly required readings on the course website per week. Postings should be not more than 250 words in length for each reading and should include comments on the substantive issues/themes or questions on the assigned readings for that week. You are also welcome to respond to other students’ postings, though you must cite your classmates as you would cite a class reading. Weekly postings are to be submitted before lecture, no later than 2:00PM TUESDAY and will begin on OCTOBER 9 for week 2. Be on time: NO LATE POSTS ACCEPTED!! In your responses, you should: 1) Summarize the chapter or article 2) Identify the author’s thesis/main argument (3) Identify two points of evidence that support the author’s thesis/main argument (4) Generate at least one thought-provoking discussion question (this can also be a statement about whether you believe the author’s evidence and/or which point of evidence you think is stronger, and why).

Not more than two paragraphs are needed for a good reading response. If there are multiple readings, address each individually (but do not exceed 250 words). Bring a printed copy of your reading response to section for referral during discussion.

*Each student is entitled to one “free” week. Your grade will not be adversely affected if you miss one weekly response for the quarter. Use it wisely!
To post on the course website, complete the following steps:
2. Login by entering your Bruin ID and password
3. Click on the week for which you are posting
4. Go to “Forum”
5. Under “Forum” select your discussion section
6. Enter your name, the week number, and your reading response

Discussion Leadership
Students will pair up to lead discussion each week. Effective discussion leadership facilitates group discussion by keeping discussion moving around key questions and issues present in the reading. For discussion leadership, prepare a short summary of the readings and a list of thought-provoking questions based on the reading, consulting with one another, reviewing students’ reading responses on our section discussion board, and considering the way these readings fit into lecture topics and the goals for this course.

Section Grade Breakdown
25% of your class grade is assigned on the basis of your participation in and contributions to discussion section. This grade will be weighted as follows:
- **30% Reading Responses**
- **70% In-section contribution**

Written Assignments
There are three written assignments during the fall quarter. We will discuss the assignments in section before they are due. The best thing you can do to prepare for written assignments in advance is to read carefully and analytically and take good notes on all your readings, in lectures, and on the films. Also, take advantage of the Writing Workshops and tutoring available to you free in Covel. The Writing Workshop (Covel 203) offers a session called “Writing an ‘A’ Paper.” Check the schedule by going to: [www.orl.ucla.edu](http://www.orl.ucla.edu), click on “Academic Support,” and then click on “Tutoring and Workshops.” Tutoring is available in the Composition Lab (Covel 228), where you can schedule an individual composition tutoring appointment at any stage of your writing.

Office Hours
I encourage you all to stop by my office hours to discuss class material, go over writing assignments, follow-up on things we’ve talked about in section, etc. You are also welcome simply to stop by and say hello, even if you don’t have a pressing issue. Hopefully, over the course of your undergraduate career, you will find that your TFs can be great resources.

Emails. All emails addressed to me must include “GE24” in the subject line. I rely on a filter system to organize emails and failure to add the “GE24” subject heading will filter your email to the wrong folder.

Laptops and Cellphones. Laptops in section are okay. If you are found playing games and browsing the web in class, you will no longer be allowed to use your laptop in class. Also, please turn off cell phones during class or set to vibrate. Absolutely NO text messaging in class.

Making Friends. Turn to the students around you. Introduce yourselves to each other. Now write down their names, emails, and phone numbers if you like below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact #1:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact #2:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact #3:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
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These students are your lifeline for the class. If you happen to be absent, lose your notes, forget an assignment or turn-in date, or are confused with the syllabus, you are to contact these three persons first. This is to encourage resourcefulness and discourage the trend of spoon-feeding. These contacts can also
make for great study groups! Of course, I am here to address any theoretical or methodological questions you have about the readings or assignments.

**Grade Rebuttals.** Regarding grades, I have a strict policy if you have a grade rebuttal. You must submit a one-page explanation of why you feel you deserve a higher grade within ONE week of receiving the grade. Grades are not a jumping off point for negotiations, but TAs do make mistakes. I will also have the liberty to grade you higher OR lower.

**Note on plagiarism**
If you use another person’s ideas or words in your writing, you must acknowledge the original source. Plagiarism is defined by the university as “the taking of another’s words or ideas as if they were your own.” It is a serious offense, and can lead to suspension or expulsion from the university. Do not be afraid to use other people’s words or ideas – just provide proper citation for your sources. We will discuss how to do this in section. The simplest way to avoid plagiarism is to use common sense: Use quotation marks where necessary and give credit where credit is due.

By following these guidelines you will be well on your way to successfully completing and passing this class!