

Touro College
Department of History & Political Science
Professor Ira E. Weinstock

"From the Plough to the Microchip"
Perspectives on American Labor History
Final, Fall 2017

Throughout this semester, we have taken a journey through America's, and to an extent, the world's (for comparison) economic, social, political and philosophical landscapes in the relationship between labor and society.

On this journey, we have discussed, debated and reflected upon (and at times with intense passion) a broad spectrum of issues/topics.

For the final, choose one (1) issue/topic for discussion. Be creative and analytical in formulating your ideas/concepts – "think outside the box".

What is important is your "take" on the issue/topic. The discussion should be approximately four (4) pages for this will allow for a solid cohesive (well thought out) formulated paper.

Use at least four (4) reference sources – i.e. the internet, magazines, newspapers, books, academic journals, class handouts etc. for this will enhance the research by providing varied perspectives and views. Use

the references as a guide in structuring your discussion. For each reference source, write a sentence describing its two (2) or three (3) main points/ideas and how it helped to develop and strengthen your discussion. *

700 - 850 words
no more

Throughout America's history, there have been numerous social movements in which labor has played a major role. Choose two (2) movements and discuss their impact on labor and society. If you wish to, you may also choose a social and/or labor movement in either Africa, Asia, Europe or Latin America for a comparative perspective.

The changes that have taken place in the evolving workplace – “from man to machine to robots” and its impact on labor and society.

The role that globalization has had on the American economy, society and the workforce.

The role that American labor unions – i.e. the AFL-CIO and its international affiliates have had on the promotion of democracy and worker's rights in both America and the world.

The role that the “global immigrant” (as a factor of an international labor force – “workers beyond borders”) has had on society.

The challenges to America's economic and political hegemony (dominance) in the 21st century (note: one way of looking at this is the rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)).