COURSE DETAIL

FROM COTTON MILL TO MEGASTORE: WORKING IN THE WEST SINCE 1845

Country
Norway

Host Institution
University of Oslo

Program(s)
University of Oslo

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History

UCEAP Course Number
110

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
FROM COTTON MILL TO MEGASTORE: WORKING IN THE WEST SINCE 1845

UCEAP Transcript Title
WORKING IN THE WEST

UCEAP Quarter Units
8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

Published in 1845, Friedrich Engels's book DIE LAGE DER ARBEITENDEN KLASSE IN ENGLAND (THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ENGLAND) describes how industrialization affected the lives of working people, based in part on his encounters with them at a Manchester cotton mill. Regarding industrial labor as both a consequence of an ongoing class struggle and the sparkplug for the revolution that would end it one day, Engels told a story of industrial work as a catalyst for political change that was going to happen the world over, one nation at a time. Fast forward a good hundred and fifty years, and the perspective on work and labor shifted. Industrial wage labor has moved in large parts to the Global South and is less clearly distinguishable from unfree labor. Unemployment has arisen as a major issue in wealthy countries. New forms of work have attracted scholarly attention, from domestic, reproductive, and service labor (partly unpaid and often done by women) to creative work, where self-realization is considered as much a reward as financial compensation. Fairness of pay and conditions is still an important concern, but it has become more difficult to mobilize for it, as dwindling union membership and the decline of Labor parties indicate. The course discusses topics including major trends and issues in the history of work and labor in the West since the mid-nineteenth century, and historiographical arguments.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HIS2363

Host Institution Course Title
FROM COTTON MILL TO MEGASTORE: WORKING IN THE WEST SINCE 1845

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/iakh/HIS2363/index.html

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty Humanities
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department History, Archaeology and Conservation Studies
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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