
Reflections: As the basis for our discussion, please reflect on the following questions.

What were the conditions that led to the General Strike of 1934: workplace, economic, local and national politics?

What was the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and how did it figure into the General Strike?

What was the immediate impact of the Strike?

What was the longer-term impact of the Strike?

In what ways has the strike continued to affect the residents of the former Southern mill towns?
Current State of Workers’ Rights in Long Beach: Panel Discussion:

Panelists:

Maria Patlan: Long Beach Hotel Worker
Jose Landino: Long Beach Hotel Worker
Guillermo Torres: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Erinn Carter: Organizer, UniteHere

Reflection:
1) Based on the presentations do you feel Nyamu-Musembi’s Actor Oriented Perspective applies to the worker’s in the long Beach hospitality sector?

2) Current US Position on the ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 holds that ratification is unnecessary because the US system of labor laws generally conform to ILO standards.
   From what you heard, would you agree or disagree and why?
Workers’ Rights Essay

Due: March 28 (note date change)
Length: 5 typed double-spaced pages.
Sources: A minimum of 6 sources.
Citation: Cite material in text and provide a bibliography. Use the following formats:

In text:
(McIntyre, p. 136); (class discussion 02/07); (Overview Worker’s Rights ppt).

Bibliography:
Sociology 449. PPT: Overview Workers’ Rights. March 7, 2013

Note: No outside material is to be used, only material from the course.

Prompt:
Essay is intended to get you thinking about the current state of workers’ rights and how these rights are defined, framed, collectively understood and realized. As you write your essay, keep in mind the AOP (and Celestine Nyamu-Musembí’s idea that “rights are shaped through actual struggles informed by people’s own understanding of what they are justly entitled to”) and Farmer’s analytical model (that analyses need to be historically deep, geographically wide and include references to class and status).

In your answer address the following:

1) Discuss the formal bases (international and national level) for workers’ rights in the U.S. specifically and workers in general—include specific organizational structures and instruments.

2) Summarize the current state of worker’s rights in the United States with reference to:
   A) How these struggles have evolved over time.
   B) What accounts for this evolution?
   C) Obstacles to firmly establishing workers’ rights in United States.

3) Your assessment of the argument that workers’ rights are human rights with specific reference to the United States.

Questions: Please ask.
Bibliography:

Books and Articles:


Websites:

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice: http://cluela.org/

International Labour Organization: www.ILO.org

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy: www.laane.org


Films:
“Bloody Thursday.” (2009). Documentary of the 1934 West coast waterfront strike leading to the founding of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU).

“Made in L.A.” (2007). Documentary of the struggle three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles to win basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer.