



# Labor History

## 2010 Local 881 UFCW Education Series

*Local 881 UFCW, in partnership with Robert Bruno, Professor at the University of Illinois—Chicago Labor Education Program, is proud to present a unique learning opportunity to the membership.*

### This four-part educational series will:

- Review the history of the Labor Movement in America;
- Explore the role of Union members in American politics;
- Examine the effect of recent economic policies on workers;
- Take a look at representations of labor in popular media.

**Join us in 2010 to learn more about the history of the Labor Movement and its impact on society. These classes are available at no charge to ALL members of Local 881 UFCW.**

#### About Robert Bruno

Robert Bruno is Director of the Labor Education Program and an Associate Professor of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois. In addition to publishing numerous scholarly articles on a diverse range of labor relations subjects, Professor Bruno has also authored many research reports, including “A Study of Illinois’ Majority Interest Petition Provision 2003-2009,” as well as “Majority Authorizations and Union Organizing in the Public Sector: A Four-State Perspective.”

He is also the author of three books; *Steelworker Alley: How Class Works in Youngstown* (1999), *Reforming the Chicago Teamsters: The Story of Local 705* (2003) and *Justified by Work: The Meaning of Faith in Chicago’s Working-Class Churches* (2008).

Professor Bruno has been a frequent commentator on labor relations for both regional and national media, and has served as a commentator for numerous newspapers. Professor Bruno has taught many different labor relations courses, but has specialized in labor history, representations of labor in the media and American politics.

Ronald E. Powell  
President and  
UFCW Intl. Vice President



Steven M. Powell  
Secretary-Treasurer and  
UFCW Intl. Vice President

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# Course Descriptions



## LABOR AND WORKING CLASS HISTORY

*Events that Shaped 19th and 20th Century America*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 (Schaumburg)**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 (Alsip)**

This course will discuss the dynamic history of trade unionism in America. Students will learn about the reasons why unions were formed and what critical events were important to their formation. They will come to understand how a working class was formed in America and who contributed to building America's economy and democracy. Finally, the course examines the positive role unionism has played in American economic, social and political development.

## LABOR UNIONS AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

*The role of union members in the American political system*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010 (Schaumburg)**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010 (Alsip)**

What is the meaning and impact of politics seen from the perspective of those at the bottom of the pyramid of political power rather than the usual focus on the actions and perceptions of political elites? In what ways do workers become involved in politics? Under what circumstances are they likely to be successful in bringing about change? The course explores political power, political participation, and political change from a broad historical and cross-cultural perspective, but always focusing on a view of politics from the bottom up. The course analyzes the political economy of labor and the labor movement's political influence in politics.

## THE FINAL VERDICT: ORGANIZED LABOR AND BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

*An analysis of failed conservative economic policy since the Reagan years*

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 (Alsip)**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010 (Schaumburg)**

This course examines the economic policies of the past thirty years that weakened the social contract and the foundations of the New Deal. The class will address how "Reaganomics" and free-market principles advocated by Presidents Reagan, Clinton and Bush collapsed the United States economy into the greatest recession since the 1930s. Members will also identify important policies that are needed to rebuild the American middle class.

## REPRESENTATIONS OF LABOR IN THE POPULAR MEDIA

*A look at how television, movies and newspapers characterize work, the workplace, workers and unions*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010 (Schaumburg)**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010 (Alsip)**

Using television, movies and newspapers this class examines how the popular media represents work, the workplace, workers, management, labor-relations and unions. Members will also discuss the meaning of the "working class" in America and how the working class is depicted on television. In addition, the class will watch clips from popular Hollywood labor films and discuss their potential impact on the viewer.

## Locations

For convenience, identical sessions will be presented at two locations. Members are encouraged to attend any or all of the topics presented.

**All sessions will be held from 7pm–9pm.**

### Hyatt Regency Woodfield

1800 E. Golf Road Schaumburg, IL 60173

(847) 605-1234

### Doubletree Hotel

5000 W. 127th Street Alsip, IL 60803

(708) 371-7300

**For headcount purposes, we encourage you to RSVP.**

Please contact your Union Representative or call Maggie Vis at (847) 294-5064, ext. 343