

AMST 3813 READINGS IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: *WORK IN AMERICAN LIFE*

Fall 2017 (Tuesday, 4:30-7:10 pm)

Dr. David Gray



This course explores literature and media dealing with the theme of “work.” We will examine how writings and representations construct ideas about work and speak to audiences about what it means to be a worker in the United States. We will focus mostly on the period since 1970, but will ground our analysis in a study of literature and media relating to work since the nineteenth century. How have writers and artists explored the changing nature of work amid economic and social change? How do their creations—novels, journalism, short stories, photographs, documentaries, movies, and other art forms—help us to understand Americans’ experiences as workers? And, how do work-themed writings and representations inform ideas about race, class, gender and nation?

Required texts include: Jean Marie Laskas, *Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work*; John Bowe et al., *Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs*, and a selection of other readings.

For more information e-mail Dr. David Gray at david.gray11@okstate.edu