In the century after the adoption of the federal Constitution, the United States developed from an overwhelming agrarian society into the world’s leading industrial power. This course examines industrialization as, variously, an economic, technological, political, environmental, and cultural process that transformed both the nation’s social order and the daily lives of ordinary Americans. To understand the causes, dynamics, and consequences of industrialization, we will employ a wide range of analytic strategies, evaluate a variety of scholarly interpretations, and make extensive use of both print and electronic resources. During the second half of the term, students will undertake original research projects in primary documents. Throughout the semester students will be encouraged to think critically and independently about the history of capitalist development in the United States. Everyone is expected to contribute to class discussions--both face-to-face and online--and to promote a constructive educational environment.

Evaluation: Final grades will be based on two 3-4 page position papers (15% each), one 9-10 page research paper (40%), and class participation including contributions to Blackboard, in-class contributions, and an oral presentation of research results (30%). The instructor reserves the right to exercise some discretion in assigning final grades.

Honor Code: All course work is covered by Oberlin’s Honor Code. If you have a question about how the Honor Code applies to a particular assignment, you should ask the professor in advance of the due date.

Writing Certification: Students who wish to be considered for certification of writing proficiency should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Purchases: Students are expected to buy the following books. They are available for purchase at the Oberlin Bookstore.
Elaine S. Abelson, *When Ladies Go A-Thieving*
Tyler Anbinder, *Five Points*
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*
William Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis*
Gary J. Kornblith, ed., *The Industrial Revolution in America*
Paul Krause, *The Battle for Homestead, 1880-1892*

Schedule of classes:

**Tues., Feb. 6**  
Introduction

**Thurs., Feb. 8**  
The Age of Homespun
- Horace Bushnell, “The Age of Homespun” (1851) [on ERes and under Course Documents in Blackboard]

**Tues., Feb. 13**  
The Political Economy of the New Nation
- Alexander Hamilton, *Report on Manufactures* (excerpts) [online]
- Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia, Queries XVIII and XIX* (1781-82) [online]
- Thomas Jefferson, *First Inaugural Address* (1801) [online]

**Thurs., Feb. 15**  
Dynamics of Development
**Tues., Feb. 20**  
The Coming of the Cotton Mill  

**Thurs., Feb. 22**  
Lowell, Massachusetts, as Industrial Showcase  
- Harriet H. Robinson, *Loom & Spindle*, chaps. 1-5 (1898) [online]  
- “Report of the Legislative Committee on the Ten-Hour Petitions, Massachusetts House Document No. 50” (1845) [in *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*, accessible from a campus computer]

**Tues., Feb. 27**  
Transformation of Craft Production  

**Thurs., Mar. 1**  
Early Labor Radicalism  
- Preamble of the Mechanics' Union of Trade Associations (Philadelphia, 1828) [online]  
- The Report and Resolutions of the Committee of Fifty (New York, 1829) [online]  
- Report of the National Trades' Union Convention of 1834 (New York, 1834) [online]  
- Ten-Hour Circular (Boston, 1835) [online]

**Tues., Mar. 6**  
Library tour  
First position paper due

**Thurs., Mar. 8**  
The Rise of the Metropolis  
- Anbinder, *Five Points*, 1-5, 14-110  

**Tues., Mar. 13**  
Social Identities in the Metropolis  
- Anbinder, *Five Points*, 7-13, 111-144, 172-200  
Thurs., Mar. 15  The Railroad as Transformative Force
   • Cronon, Nature’s Metropolis, 55-147

Tues., Mar. 20  Industrialization and the Civil War
   • Anbinder, Five Points, 235-336

Thurs., Mar. 22  The Rise of Big Business
   • Cronon, Nature’s Metropolis, 149-259
   Prospectus due

Spring Break

Tues., Apr. 3  Mobility, Meritocracy, and Middle-Class Ideology

Thurs., Apr. 5  The Consumerist Ethic
   • Cronon, Nature’s Metropolis, 310-40
   • Abelson, When Ladies Go A-Thieving, 3-90, 148-96, and illustrations between p. 90 and p. 91

Tues., Apr. 10  Class Struggles in the Gilded Age, 1860s-1870s
   • Krause, The Battle of Homestead, xiii-xiv, 3-11, 45-152

Thurs., Apr. 12  Class Struggles in the Gilded Age, 1870s-1880s
   • Krause, The Battle of Homestead, 153-226

Tues., Apr. 17  No class
   Second position paper due

Thurs., Apr. 19  Class Struggles in the Gilded Age, 1880s-1890s
   • Krause, The Battle of Homestead, 12-43, 227-362

Tues., Apr. 24  The Richest Man in the World (video)

Thurs., Apr. 26  The Political Economy of Industrial America
   • Andrew Carnegie, “Wealth” (1889) [online]
   • Bellamy, Looking Backward, entire

Tues., May 1  Student Presentations

Thurs., May 3  Student Presentations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 8</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 10</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research paper due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>