

The Places of Migration in US History

21H.221 Fall 2006

First Essay Assignment

Write a **3-5 page essay** on one of the following questions. You should bring the essay with you to class on **Thursday September 28**.

1. Was the Bread and Roses strike a success or a failure? Be sure to define your terms. Don't just look them up in the dictionary; come up definitions that are meaningful to you as someone analyzing the past, and that would take into account the expectations of people at the time.
2. Was San Francisco's Chinatown a space of community or confinement?
3. Both Bruce Watson and Nayan Shah are concerned with the "agency" (which we might define as "the means and ability of exerting power or influence over a situation") of immigrant workers at the turn of the century, and they have uncovered it in both familiar and unfamiliar places. Choosing examples from both Lawrence and Chinatown, write an essay in which you critically evaluate the political agency of immigrant workers.
4. Design your own essay topic. If there is a particular question that has been nagging you and that you would like to think through in a sustained way, talk to me about it and we'll craft an essay question around this theme.

Whatever you do, be clear in your view on the theme you choose, state it clearly in the opening paragraph, and use specific evidence or direct quotations from the original works to demonstrate your points. (The assigned readings for this course should be sufficient for building a good argument.) The paper should be double-spaced with standard margins; extensions will be granted only for good reasons explained well in advance. Proper academic citation is required, but you may use whichever standard style you know best. Adherence to standards of academic honesty is required; if you have any questions about how to go about your writing or cite your sources, don't hesitate to ask.