

Industrial Protest and the Law

A History of British Trade Unionism

This introductory course will examine the state's legal response to trade unions and the struggles of working people from 1750 to the present day, placing industrial protest and the changing law in their economic, social and political context.

The course will look at early attempts to form trade unions during the period of illegality from the 18th century to the early 19th century, the formation of mass unions from the end of 19th century, and the use of the courts by employers to frustrate industrial action. It will also survey the changing fortunes of the trade union movement during the 20th century, when from the 1960s an apparent 'right' to strike was challenged by successive governments, resulting in the current legal restrictions introduced in the 1980s and 1990s.

Tutor: Jim Horton

Date: 6 consecutive Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm - starting 03/11/2011

Venue: WEA Learning Centre, 96 - 100 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4TP

Contact: Monica Gort - Tel: 020 7426 1976

Email: mgort@wea.org.uk

Fee: £42, or free on proof of income related benefits

Course ID: C2415809

Enrol: via www.wea.org.uk or 0800 328 1060



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