MAPL 631: Labor and the Political Economy

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: None

MAPL 631 is a labor concentration course in the Master of Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) Program. The course will study the history and current status of collective bargaining issues through the lens of the political economy, i.e. the intersection of economics and politics. Early sessions of the course will provide a theoretical and historical grounding in basic concepts in the political economy of labor, both generally and in the specific context of the United States. In later classes, we will consider a number of contemporary political-economic issues in light of these concepts, issues like the minimum wage, the right to work, and whether employees should have any control over the compensation for and conditions of their jobs. Students will examine and debate these issues from several political-economic perspectives.

B. Course Effective Dates: 01/12/2015 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Value the dignity of work and the dignity of all workers.
2. Know what labor unions are and what they do in the workplace, in local communities, in the political arena and internationally.
3. Know the principal ways in which the state and government policy help shape modern economies.
4. Understand the role of labor in the political economy and labor perspectives on some current political-economic issues.
5. Understand the fundamental human and legal rights of workers and challenges they face in the U.S. and around the world.
6. Know credible information sources for research on unions and political-economic issues involving labor.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

This contains no goal areas.

G. Special Information

None