

# ATIW-2400: HISTORY OF IRON WORKERS UNION

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: ATIW-2400 : History of Iron Workers Union**

**Board of Trustees:**

June 2020

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2020

**Subject Code**

ATIW - Appld Indus Tech - Ironworking

**Course Number:**

2400

**Title:**

History of Iron Workers Union

**Catalog Description:**

The Iron Workers Union in America from 1896 through today, including people and events that influenced the organization.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ATIW-2350 Ornamental Systems and Railings or concurrent enrollment, or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

A. Describe the conditions that led to the formation of the Iron Workers Union.

**Objective(s):**

1. Evaluate the earliest known labor-management agreement.
2. Critique the use of cast iron in bridge construction.
3. Research the founding of the Knights of Labor in 1869.
4. Analyze the similarities between unions and guilds.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

B. Identify union leaders who directed the organization.

**Objective(s):**

1. Analyze George Geary's role in founding the Bridge and Construction Man's Union.
2. Evaluate Sam Gompers speech at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition.
3. Interpret the main outcomes of the founding convention of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America held in 1896.
4. Research the delegates who attended the founding convention.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

C. Explain how historical events and figures influenced the organization.

**Objective(s):**

1. Research the effects of the McNamara case on the International.
  2. Evaluate the effects the depression and the New Deal had on labor.
  3. Evaluate the Davis-Bacon act.
  4. Evaluate the struggles labor had during World War II and immediately following.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

- D. Analyze the policies formulated at the International Conventions 1 through 38.

**Objective(s):**

1. Evaluate the agreement reached in 1903.
  2. Interpret the revised constitution resulting from the twenty-first convention.
  3. Describe the results of the thirty-third Convention.
  4. Interpret the effect that OSHA had on the structural steel industry.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Quizzes
2. Exams
3. Classroom participation

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Historical perspective
  - a. Wire rope in America
  - b. Railroad construction
  - c. Bridge construction
  - d. Production of iron and steel
  - e. Union associations
    - i. Knights of Labor
    - ii. American Federation of Labor
  - f. Strikes
2. Beginning of the Union
  - a. Organizing
  - b. International conventions 1-9
  - c. Delegates
  - d. "The Bridgemen"s Magazine"
3. Turbulent years: 1906-1912
  - a. International conventions 10-15
  - b. The McNamara case
4. The Conspiracy Trials
  - a. Aftermath
  - b. International conventions 16-19
5. Beginning of the Morrin era
  - a. International conventions 20-23
  - b. The Great Steel Strike of 1919
6. The Depression
7. The New Deal
  - a. International conventions 24-26
  - b. Davis-Bacon Act
  - c. Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932
  - d. National Labor Relations Act
  - e. Social Security Act
  - f. Congress of Industrial Organizations
  - g. National Apprenticeship Law
  - h. Fair Labor Standards Act
8. World War II
9. Post-war struggles

- a. International conventions 27-28
  - b. Shop organizing campaign
  - c. Taft-Hartley Act
  - d. Korean War
10. Ironworkers in the 1950s
- a. International conventions 29-31
  - b. Condition of the economy
  - c. Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959
11. Ironworkers in the 1960s
- a. International conventions 32-33
  - b. Election of John H. Lyons, Jr.
    - i. General President
    - ii. AFL-CIO positions
  - c. Labor legislation under President Kennedy
  - d. Space and missile programs
  - e. National Ironworker Contractors Associations
12. Ironworkers in the 1970s
- a. International conventions 34-35
  - b. 75th Anniversary
  - c. Unemployment and inflation
  - d. New organizing campaign
  - e. Labor law reform campaign
13. Ironworkers: 1980 to present
- a. International conventions 36-38
  - b. The Reagan years
  - c. General President Juel D. Drake
  - d. General President Jake West
  - e. National Ironworkers Welding Certification
  - f. Construction Organizing Membership Education and Training program
  - g. Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship and Training Conference of North America
  - h. 100th Anniversary

## Resources

Cahn, William. *A Pictorial History of American Labor*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1988.

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Fossum, John A. *Labor Relations: Development, Structure, Process*. 12th ed. Chicago: Irwin, 2014.

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Murray, R. Emmett. *The Lexicon of Labor*. Revised. New York: The New Press, 2010.

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International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers. *A History of the Iron Workers Union*. Washington, D.C.: Affiliated Graphics, 2018.

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Aghayere, Abi O. and Jason Vigil. *Structural Steel Design*. 3rd ed. Dulles, VA: Mercury Learning and Information, 2020.

## Resources Other

American Institute of Steel Construction. <https://www.aisc.org/technical-resources/> . 2020.

International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers. <http://www.ironworkers.org/>. 2011.

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