

VICTORIAN LABOR COLLEGE

Founded 1917

For the Purpose of Independent  
Working Class Education

Syllabus

1938

Controlled by:

Melbourne Trades Hall Council  
and  
Affiliated Trade Unions

*Victorian Labor  
College  
Collector*

FROM AN ORIGINAL IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION

# LABOR STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW

THAT EDUCATION IS BASED ON THE THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND PRACTICES OF THE DOMINATING CLASS IN SOCIETY.

It is because of this that Labor Education is termed independent education: that is, independent of the knowledge provided by orthodox education.

In other words, our educational institutions are thoroughly progressive in dealing with technical problems of modern industry but are reactionary when it comes to dealing with fundamental social problems.

## The Universities

The universities are in fact found to be as much defences of the existing social order. WHY? Is it because the university man is dishonest? Does the "highly educated" man oppose socialism because of his desire to support the section of the community who draw large incomes against that section of the community who draw small incomes? Because many workers know that something is fundamentally wrong with the capitalist system they think that highly educated people should see what they see. What is forgotten is, that a man who lives on the hilltop of society is hardly likely to take the same view of that society as the man who lives down in the valley.

The fact is that education today, whether provided by the school, the university, the press, the cinema, the radio, is part and parcel of the defensive mechanism of the capitalist system.

Can anyone doubt that, if our schools,

universities, newspapers and cinemas showed the capitalist system as it really is, there could fail to be an almost universal desire to supersede it?

Thus it will be seen that the independent workers' education of the Victorian Labor College did not proceed as in a vacuum, but was motivated by the thoughts expressed herewith, resulting in the Melbourne Trades Hall Council in 1917 establishing a college whereby workers could study and gain knowledge of social conditions.

#### Trades Hall Classes -- FREE

Through the years the Melbourne Trades Hall Council has backed its decision for workers' education with practical support. It provides facilities for the College to do its administrative work, house its library, display its literature and a class room to conduct its studies, all entirely free of any charge.

In addition, some 44 unions pay affiliation fees, which with the addition of voluntary work of officials and tutors enables the College to give free tuition to students attending classes at the Trades Hall.

#### Postal Courses

Owing to the general costs entailed in the issuance of correspondence courses a fee is charged. However, students can verify that our fee is well below that of any other educational body using this method. The fee for each postal course (unless subsidised by a trade union) must be sent with the student's application for enrolment to be complete.

#### How To Enrol

Immediately on receipt of this syllabus students should fill in the application forms

supplied with this syllabus. Other forms can be obtained from our office, Room E, basement, Trades Hall (Victoria St. entrance), from bookstall, or from the secretary, Mr. E. Tripp Box 39, Trades Hall. Phone: 3179224.

### EVENING CLASSES

Conducted in ROOM E, Trades Hall

Students will find in the list that follows that some of the classes only supply the evening on which they will be held. The date of their commencement will be supplied to applicants as soon as sufficient enrolments have been received. Owing to the limited space of class room you are strongly advised to send your application in early to avoid disappointment.

History of the Labor Movement -- held MONDAY evenings at 8 p.m. Commencing date will be in May. All students will be notified as soon as sufficient enrolments are received.

Tutor: Mr. E. Tripp, Secretary Victorian Labor College.

Subject lectures include,-- How to study history -- The Middle Ages -- Great French Revolution -- 1848 -- Utopian and Scientific Socialism -- The Paris Commune -- Formation of Internationals -- Revisionism -- Russian Revolution.

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Economics -- held WEDNESDAY evenings at 8 pm. Expected to commence in May. Students will be notified of commencing date as soon as sufficient enrolments are received.

Tutor: Mr. P. Furey. Mr. Furey has had considerable experience in teaching Economics both in New Zealand and Australia.

Subject lectures will be based on Vol. 1 Marx's "Capital". The two characteristics of Labor, concrete and abstract will be explained in connection with the Labor Theory of Value -- Characteristics of commodities -- What is capital?-- Constant and Variable capital -- theory of wages, Inflation causes -- the cause of rising prices-- the effect of Automation under capitalism and reasons underlying speed-up methods per medium of Method Studies.

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Industrial Law -- Commencing date, TUESDAY,  
JULY 5, at 8 p.m.

Lecturer: Mr. J. Button B.A. LLB.

Mr. Button will give a series of five lectures on Industrial Law.

Lecture 1 Introductory -- TUESDAY, July 5.

The development of employer/employee relationship -- Growth of government intervention in employer/employee relationship--The development of legislation in Australia -- Conciliation and Arbitration Act -- Labor and Industry Act -- Workers' Compensation Act.

Lecture 2 TUESDAY, July 19, Conciliation and Arbitration in Australia.

Lecture 3 TUESDAY July 26 -- Victorian Labor and Industry Act. Wages -- Long Service Leave -- Industrial Safety provision -- Industrial safety and health in Industry -- Compensation for injured employees -- Damages claim -- Workers' compensation.

Lecture 4 TUESDAY AUGUST 2 -- Workers' Compensation in Victoria.

Lecture 5 TUESDAY AUGUST 9. -- Possible Developments in Industrial Law -- Automation -- Social services -- National Insurance -- Rationalising workers' compensation -- Motor accident schemes.

These lectures on Industrial Law have been drawn up by Mr. Button to be of particular interest to Union functionaries and shop-stewards.

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Philosophy -- Commencing MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12.

Tutor: E. Tripp, secretary Victorian Labor College.

Subject lectures: Introducing the subject -- Some terms explained -- Metaphysics -- Idealist philosophers -- Empiricism -- Materialism and Hegel -- Materialism and Feuerbach -- Marx and Engels Dialectical Materialism.

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BOOKSTALL:

Students will find a wide range of literature to help with the various courses, on sale at our bookstall situated at the Victoria St. entrance to the Trades Hall.

There is a library also adjoining the class room. Books are lent to students. Particulars of this can be obtained from tutors.

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Become a reader of

LABOR COLLEGE REVIEW

A Digest of Socialist Journals

Issued quarterly -- 10 cents (1/-) per copy.

Posted in Australia - 15 cents (1/6).

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For further particulars about classes, or other matters in this syllabus contact secretary, Box 39, Trades Hall. Phone: 3179224

POSTAL COURSES

If your activities prevent you attending evening classes at the Trades Hall

WHY NOT STUDY BY POST?

Learning through a postal course has distinct advantages: It enables you to:

- \* Study in your own time.
- \* Receive individual attention.
- \* Gain a satisfactory pass before proceeding to next subject.
- \* Retain the subject matter of your course along with your work and corrections.
- \* Estimate your own progress.

You can become a student of any postal course by filling in the postal course application form and posting it along with the fee to:

E. Tripp, secretary,  
 Victorian Labor College,  
 Box 39, Trades Hall,  
 MELBOURNE.  
 Phone: 3179224.

POSTAL COURSES

ECONOMICS 12 lessons.

Price to student \$10.00  
 Subjects include: Value and exchange - Characteristics of commodities -- The Labor Theory of Value - What is capital? -- Falling rate of profit -- crises and the cause.

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History of the Labor Movement 10 lessons

Price to student \$9.50

Subjects include: History of the Middle Ages - French Revolution 1789 -- Industrial Revolution in Britain -- European struggles 1848 -- Paris Commune - Theory of Socialism -- The Internationals -- Russian Revolution.

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FINANCE 6 lessons. Price to student \$8.50

Subjects include: Money and its functions -- The banks -- Banking profit-Finance and international trade -- Devaluation -- bank rate -- Inflation a major problem -- Meaning of the gold standard -- Currency manipulation.

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English Grammar & Article Writing (elementary)

12 lessons. Price to student \$10.00

Subjects include: Essential rules of grammar --  
Common mistakes to avoid --  
Punctuation -- Spelling --  
word-building vocabulary and  
exercises -- Essay practice.

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English Grammar and Article Writing (intermediate)

12 lessons. Price to student \$10.00

Subjects include: Choice of words -- Figures  
of speech -- Synonyms --  
Common errors -- sentence  
construction -- Precis writ-  
ing -- Reporting.

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Article Writing and Labor Journalism

9 lessons. Price to student \$9.00

Subjects include: Collecting information --  
Reports on meetings -- Book  
Reviews -- Article writing --  
Style -- Proof reading.

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Arithmetic and Statistics (elementary)

6 lessons. Price to student \$8.50

Subjects include: Quick checking methods --  
Speed and accuracy -- Value  
of formula -- Square root --  
Decimals and fractions --  
changing fractions into per-  
centages -- Calculating quick-  
ly -- What are statistics? --  
The Balance Sheet -- Averages--  
The use of graphs.

Arithmetic and Statistics (advanced)

6 lessons. Price to student \$6.00

Subjects include: Area measurement -- Volume--  
Practical use for area cal-  
culations -- Metric system--  
Bills of Exchange -- Prob-  
lems of proportion -- Stocks  
and Shares -- Profit and  
loss -- Calculating percen-  
tages -- Logarithms -- The  
Bank Rate -- Statistics.

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Chairmanship 9 lessons. Price to student \$9.00

Subjects include: Opening a meeting -- Hints  
to handle questions --  
Closing a meeting -- Pre-  
siding at, business meeting,  
public meeting, private  
meeting -- Points of Order--  
Committees and deputations--  
Standing Orders.

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History of Arbitration: 6 lessons.  
Price to student \$8.50

Subjects include: Maritime Strike -- First  
efforts -- Basic Wage --  
important decisions to 1953--  
Automatic adjustments --  
Decisions from 1956-61 --  
Wages Boards -- Common-  
wealth Conciliation and  
Arbitration Commission --  
Presidential sessions --  
Margin fluctuations -- 40  
hour week -- Annual Leave --  
Long Service Leave -- Penal  
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