

PRELIMINARY 575:201:01 Labor and Work in the US before the End of Reconstruction PRELIMINARY

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INTRODUCTION

This course will explore the history of working people in the United States up through the Civil War. Through looking at labor history, we will learn about social and political history as well. This course is aimed primarily at students who have little or no experience with college-level history and assumes no prior knowledge of the historical developments we will cover.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The student is able to:

Core Curriculum: SCL, HST, WCr and WCd

- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time. (HST-1)
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization. (SCL-1)
- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision. (WCr)
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. (WCd)

School of Management and Labor Relations:

- Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry-level professional. (Goal I)
- Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation. (Goal IV)

Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories and concepts in the field of labor and employment relations. (Goal 1)
- Make an argument using contemporary or historical evidence. (Goal 4)

REQUIRED TEXT

Clark, Hewitt, Brown, Jaffee, *Who Built America? Vol. 1* (Third Edition, ISBN 9780312446918)

The textbook will be provided to you as a PDF on Canvas, but used copies are quite inexpensive online, if you desire a tangible version.

NO COMPUTERS

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Seriously. No laptops, no tablets, no phones. Computers in class tempt us to multitask (it happens to me!), but you're not here for that. What people do on their computers in a group setting can be distracting. Plus, best of all, taking notes on paper is better for your understanding! See for yourself:

psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/take-notes-by-hand-for-better-long-term-comprehension.html

scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/

wsj.com/articles/can-handwriting-make-you-smarter-1459784659

npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away

pbs.org/wgbh/nova/next/body/taking-notes-by-hand-could-improve-memory-wt/

kon.org/urc/v12/duran.html

Choosing to ignore this policy will negatively impact your grade for attendance and participation.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Read the syllabus

Be here on time

Pay attention

Do the readings

Turn in your assignments on time

Make sure your assignments are submitted

Find out what you missed if you are unable to attend

EVALUATION

Written assignments

You will write two papers this semester, on topics to be announced. Each accounts for 20% of your final grade. You will write several drafts of each. All are mandatory, as is participation in peer review. If you miss a peer review session, it is your responsibility to make it up, or you will receive no credit for it. Missing your writing conference, or coming unprepared, will earn you a significant reduction on your grade for the assignment. Each part of the process counts toward your final assignment grade, and missing any of the parts – a draft, peer review – will also earn you a significant reduction on your grade. I expect an honest attempt at a full paper for all drafts. Doing otherwise will negatively impact your grade. It is your responsibility to make sure you turn in each draft and peer editing form. If you do not have a submission receipt from Canvas, then you have not submitted your essay, and you will be graded accordingly. Declining to make substantial changes to your drafts (unless otherwise advised) will result in a failing grade. Turning in no final paper, or turning in only a final paper, or turning in the same paper multiple times, will result in a zero.

Lateness Policy

All late assignments will be marked down. Ten points will be deducted for every 24-hour period (or portion thereof) your paper is late. That is, a B paper will turn into a C paper if it is up to 24 hours late, and into a D paper if it is up to 48 hours late. While the drafts are not assigned letter grades, failing to turn them or turning them in late will have the same effect on the final draft you hand in for a grade.

You must complete all written assignments in order to receive credit for this course. We will turn back all assignments in a timely manner. If we do not turn back your assignment, it is your job to bring this to our attention. If you believe we have not recorded a grade for an assignment you have turned in, you must clear this up during the semester. After the semester is over, we will not be able to consider claims that you turned in an assignment if we have no record of it.

Discussion forums

For most weeks, you will have discussion posts due on Canvas. I will post primary sources and several questions for you to answer about each. You are also required to respond to at least one of your discussion group members, *for each discussion topic*, which helps to make what you are doing actual discussions.

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For example: your first discussion posts will be due at 5:40 PM on Wednesday, September 7. Your response to at least one of your peers, in each discussion topic, will be due by 5:40 PM on Friday, September 9. All other discussion posts will be due on Fridays, with responses due Tuesdays.

Please indicate which questions you are answering, and separate each into its own paragraph.

Your initial answers and responses should both be substantive contributions, every time. A single-sentence answer and "I agree!" as a response will not earn credit. Please put some time into these, as they are not box-checking exercises to take up your time. These discussions are a prime method of learning, and the more work you put into them, the better off we all are.

All discussions are mandatory, and any that you do not complete will result in a lower overall grade for the course. There is no partial credit for discussions. They are complete or incomplete. Late discussions are incomplete discussions, so be sure to get your answers and responses in by their respective due dates.

Attendance

As with any college course, you are expected to come to class every meeting, on time, for the duration of the meeting. If you have more than two unexcused absences, your final grade will be reduced by one full grade (e.g. from an A to a B). For every one after that, the same will happen. An excused absence would mean something along the lines of a medical emergency or a funeral and requires documentation. Leaving early and showing up late will count against you as well.

Being physically present is important, but you should strive to be mentally present as well. Being attentive and actively participating in class enhances your learning, as well as that of those around you. Someone (you, your parents, you in the future, Rutgers donors) is paying for you to be here, so try to get the most out of it. Contributing to class discussion is a very easy way to earn a higher overall grade in the course.

Coming to class every time, on time, which you are supposed to do anyway, and being attentive, meaning not engaging in distractions, including, but not limited to side conversations and use of electronic devices, will earn you 50% of the maximum attendance and discussion grade. Actively participating in class will earn you more points.

Cheating/plagiarism

There are serious consequences, including expulsion, for both cheating and taking someone else's work without attribution. The university has clear, strict policies on these matters. I will report all violations. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policy by visiting academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/ The relevant parts are brief and straightforward. If you have any questions, please ask me.

Exams

There will be a first exam due October 25, and a second exam due December 13.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussions and attendance	20%
Paper I	20%
Paper II	20%
First exam	20%
Second exam	20%

I grade according the following grade breakdown:	A 90
	B+ 87 B 80
	C+ 77 C 70 D 60

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Use of Class Materials

The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, the syllabus, exams, lecture materials, and assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students. You may not make audio or video recordings of any part of this class without my consent.

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 6	Introduction and Rise of the Atlantic World
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter One
September 13	The Evolution of Slavery
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Two
September 20	Colonial Society, Labor and the Revolution
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Three
September 27	Securing Independence
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Four
Assignment	First draft of first paper due
October 4	Launching the New Republic
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Five
October 11	Writing conferences
October 18	The Transformation of American Society
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Six
Assignment	Final draft of first paper due
October 25	The Age of Reform
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Seven
Assignment	First exam due
November 1	The Old South and Slavery
Reading	Who Built America? Chapter Nine
November 8	Immigration, Expansion and Sectional Conflict

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Reading Who Built America? Chapter Eight

November 15 From Compromise to Kansas
Reading Who Built America? Chapter Ten

November 29 The Civil War
Reading Who Built America? Chapter Eleven
Assignment First draft of second paper due

December 6 Reconstruction
Reading Who Built America? Chapter Twelve
Assignment Final draft of second paper due

December 13
Assignment Second exam due