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“History does not merely refer to the past . . . history is literally present in all we do.”

--James Baldwin

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Spring 2021 Syllabus (Asynchronous)

Subject to Change

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### **Why study U.S. Labor and Work before the End of Reconstruction?**

Reconstruction is just one part of the history James Baldwin wanted America to see. In that sense, the history of our nation remains an inspiration for those who hope to build a freer and more equal America. I am hoping that throughout the semester you will develop a deep appreciation for the continuance of Mr. Baldwin's words.

### **How do I get in touch with my instructor?**

I invite you to email questions that come up as you work through the readings. If you ever find you did not get the feedback that you needed on an assignment, then just email me, or, for that matter, email me about your thoughts, concerns, comments, or anything else on your mind.

Use the messaging tool in Canvas (sktaylor@echo.rutgers.edu). If you need to meet with me, I can schedule a meeting using the Conferences tool in Canvas.

### **When a situation arises, how should I keep my instructor informed?**

If one of life's unforeseen events prevents you from attending class or completing work, it's best to inform me right away so that your issue is not left unattended and therefore unknown to me, or, brought up too late for me to adequately address and work with you in a timely manner.

If you need accommodations, let me know as soon as possible. You have the right to have your needs met.

### **How can I be a good citizen in this class?**

- You owe it to your peers to submit your work on time, whether participating in a forum or reviewing your peer's paper. You owe it to yourself, so that you can take full advantage of the points. Time management is key to independent learning.

### **What kinds of technology should I know how to use?**

- You should be familiar with how to use Canvas and Zoom.

### **What should you be able to *know* and *do* by the end of this course?**

- Explain the development of some aspect of society or culture over time.
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
- 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 & revision.
- 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.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, and concepts in the field of labor and employment relations.

- Make an argument using contemporary or historical evidence.
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

**How will I be evaluated?**

You will be evaluated based upon forums, peer reviews, and written assignments.

**How are you graded?**

Criteria	Points
Forums (2) 50 pts. each	100
Peer Reviews (3) 50 pts. each	150
Writing Assignments (3) 200, 250, 300 pts.	750

Assignments	Due Dates
Forum 1	Opens February 8 First comment due by February 9 by 11:59 a.m. Two replies to peers due by February 10 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment I Rough Draft, Peer Review, and Final Draft	Writing Assignment I Posted February 15 Rough Draft due by March 1 at 11:59 a.m. Peer Review due by March 3 at 11:59 a.m. Final Draft due by March 5 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment II Rough Draft, Peer Review, and Final Draft	Writing Assignment II Posted Rough Draft due by March 8 at 11:59 a.m. Peer Review due by March 22 at 11:59 a.m. Final Draft due by March 24 at 11:59 a.m.
Forum II	Opens April 5 First comment due April 6 by 11:59 a.m. Two replies to peers due by April 7 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment III Draft, Peer Review, and Final Draft	Writing Assignment III Posted April 12 Rough Draft due by April 26 at 11:59 a.m. Peer Review due by April 28 at 11:59 a.m. Final Draft due by April 30 at 11:59 a.m.

Modules	Assignments
Discovery and First Contact	<i>Columbus: The Four Voyages</i> pp. 195-204 <i>A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies</i> pp. 14-17 Video <i>Columbus and the Age of Discovery</i>

	Video: "Word Crimes" Podcast: "Feral Hogs"
Sources of Coerced Labor in the Colonies	Video: "Rockin' English" <i>White Trash</i> pp. 17-28
Servitude and Slavery in the Chesapeake Colonies	Video: "Zombie Nouns" <i>American Colonies</i> pp. 142-152 <i>The Barbarous Years</i> pp. 63-67; 71-77
Race and Class in the Virginia Colony	Video: "Editing Sentences" Writing Resource: "The Writer's Diet" <i>American Colonies</i> pp. 153-157 <i>The Barbarous Years</i> pp. 174-179 <i>Jamestown: 1619</i> pp. 85-117
The Culture of Artisan Work	<i>Tom Paine and Revolutionary America</i> pp. 28-39
The Consolidation of Slavery in the South	<i>Who Built America?</i> pp. 265-323 <i>Masterless Men</i> pp. 62-89
The Changing Nature of Work	Adam Smith, "Of the Division of Labor" Alexis de Tocqueville, "How an Aristocracy May Be Created by Manufactures"
The Worsening of Work	"Metropolitan Industrialization" pp. 108-119
One Perspective on Industrialism and the American Worker	Thomas DiLorenzo, "How Capitalism Enriched the Working Class" pp. 93-101 Video: "Slavery by another Name"
The Convict Leasing System in the South and the "Railroad Chinese" in the West	<i>Slavery by Another Name</i> pp. 53-65 <i>Ghosts of Gold Mountain</i> pp. 1-13; 138-164; 209-236



### About me

Hello. My name is Shawn Taylor. I am a veteran who served as a platoon commander in the United States Marine Corps. In the winter, I ski and snowboard with my son in the Rocky Mountains of Utah and Colorado. In the summer, I hike, bike, and run (I will be completing my 22nd marathon next October). I live with my partner Joanne, a rescue cat, Bandit, and a rescue dog from Hurricane Harvey, Blue, a formidable 11-pound mongrel of Chihuahua, Dachshund, Pomeranian, and Greyhound.

Important information regarding the Offices of Disability Services, Turnitin, and Writing Assignments Overview and Policies can be found on the Canvas course site.