

Course Syllabus

History of Labor and Work in the United States, 1880 to 1945

Rutgers University 37:575:202:01 *Tentative – Subject to Change*

Spring 2021



Course schedule: Monday, 12:00 - 3:00 pm, January 25 - May 3, 2021. Class meetings held remotely on Zoom. Discussion forums, paper assignments, exams, and other course activities on Canvas.

Instructor:

Prof. William Brucher, PhD

Email: wbrucher@smlr.rutgers.edu (<mailto:wbrucher@smlr.rutgers.edu>)

Phone: 207-653-2083 (cell)

Virtual office hours by appointment

Wiring Instructors:

Adrien Cailleaud, ajc358@scarletmail.rutgers.edu (<mailto:ajc358@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>)

Henry Fessant-Eaton, hfessant@scarletmail.rutgers.edu (<mailto:hfessant@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>)

Course Description: This course introduces the important development and themes in the U.S. labor movement from 1880 through World War II. We will take a close look at how American workers built labor unions, civil rights organizations, and social movements to defend their interests during wars, depressions, and periods of conflict with those who controlled wealth and capital. By focusing on these struggles, we will learn about some of the people, ideas, and institutions that shaped the labor movement, while also exploring the workplace and the economy in political, social, and cultural terms.

Skills development: This course meets the writing distribution requirement for the School of Arts and Sciences. In addition to developing writing skills through writing successive drafts, students will learn to provide constructive feedback to their peers. The course has additional writing instructors who will read and comment on drafts, meet with students for one-on-one conferences, and assess final papers. At the conclusion of the course, students will demonstrate an increase in their knowledge and skills in writing and revising academic essays. Specifically, students should be able to:

- Enter into a dialogue with specialists in a particular field of study,
- Read essays and extract and explain key points and terms,
- Organize a paper from thesis, to topic sentence, to conclusion,
- Interact with texts by using meaningful citations in their papers,
- Use a range of sentence structures, and
- Write meaningful, clear, and organized papers.

Learning Objectives: This course covers several School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), School of Management and Labor Relations (SMLR), and Labor Studies and Employment Relations (LSER) Department learning objectives.

School of Arts and Sciences:

Students will learn to:

HST-1: Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.

SCL-1: Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

WCR: 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.

WCD: 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.

School of Management and Labor Relations:

Students will learn to:

I: Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry-level professional.

IV: Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context

iv. Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation.

Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department:

Students will learn to:

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

Course Requirements:

1. **Read the entire syllabus** and make sure you understand it. This is your contract with your instructors.
2. **Be prepared for class.** Always complete any reading, discussion, and writing assignments by their due dates. Check your email regularly for class announcements.
3. **Participation.** For most weeks of this course, we will have synchronous (live) class meetings on Zoom that will be recorded and posted on the course Canvas site for later viewing. In addition, we will have asynchronous discussion forums or other assignments that you will complete over a course week. You should participate fully in these forums and assignments. If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to participate in course activities (due to COVID-19, serious illness, or another major reason), report it in writing in advance or as soon as possible using the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>). Not all absences will be excused. The participation grade will be based on the completion of eight asynchronous discussion forums on assigned readings and videos throughout the semester. Students with excused absences will be able to make up missed course work.
4. **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity requires that all academic work be the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged and permitted by the assignment. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the university community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of this course. Students are also expected to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the instructor or dean of the instructional unit. For more information on the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy, see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy> (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>).

5. **Copyright:** The instructor for this course holds the copyright to the course teaching materials, including lecture slides, discussion questions, exams, and assignments. The copyrights to the readings and films belong to their rights holders (authors, producers, publishers, etc.). Students may not copy or distribute this material without the permission of the instructor. Unauthorized distributions of course materials are serious offenses. For more information on the Rutgers University Copyright Policy, see <http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/50.3.7-current.pdf> (<http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/50.3.7-current.pdf>)
6. **Disability Statement:** 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: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines> (<https://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: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form> (<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>).
7. **Statement on Academic Freedom:** Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. This course will introduce an array of sometimes-conflicting ideas and interpretations of U.S. history, and all who partake in the course should feel encouraged to express their views in an open, civic forum.
8. **Missed Exams:** All students are expected to take the scheduled midterm and final exams at the designated times.
9. **Canvas:** This course uses the Rutgers Canvas course management system, accessible at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu> (<https://canvas.rutgers.edu>). Click "NetID Login" on the right side of the main Canvas site. Once you log in, you can access the course site by clicking the "Courses" tab. The course site features the syllabus and weekly modules with the reading, viewing, and writing assignments.
10. **Paper Assignments:** All paper drafts, peer reviews, and writing conferences be completed for full credit. You will submit all drafts of your papers electronically on Canvas and they will be checked using Turnitin.
11. **Lateness Policy:** All late paper assignments will be marked down 10 points for every 24-hour period they are late. All drafts, peer reviews, and writing conferences have point values. If you have a covered personal emergency that makes it impossible for you to meet the deadline, please

have a severe personal emergency that makes it impossible for you to meet the deadlines, please contact your instructors.

2. **Required Readings:** Many of the reading assignments will be chapters from the following textbook, which has been digitized and is available for you on the course Canvas site. You may purchase a copy of the third edition of the textbook if you prefer:

Rosenzweig, Roy and Nelson Lichtenstein, eds. *Who Built America?: Working People and the Nation's History Volume Two: Since 1877*, Third Edition. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin Press, 2008.

In addition to the textbook, there are other required readings and videos that will either be assigned to for class meetings and discussion forums. These will be posted as PDF files, Word documents, video files, or web links in the modules on the weekly modules on the course Canvas site. Some of the additional readings are primary source documents written in the past that provide perspectives and insight on historical developments and events. Other additional readings are secondary source commentaries and historical analyses written after the events have taken place.

3. **Assignment Points:** Assignments are assigned points (up to 1,000 total points for all course assignments)

Discussion forums: 200 points (8 discussion forums worth 25 points each)

Paper 1: 200 points (25 points for the first draft and peer review; 25 points for the second draft and writing conference; 150 points for the final draft)

Midterm Exam: 200 points

Paper 2: 200 points (25 points for the first draft and peer review; 25 points for the second draft and writing conference; 150 points for the final draft)

Final Exam: 200 points

14. **Final Grades:** Here is how the 1,000 point grade scale translates into final letter grades:

900 to 1000 points = A	850 to 899 points = B+	750 to 799 points = C+	600 to 699 points = D
	800 to 849 points = B	700 to 749 points = C	0 to 599 points = F

The syllabus, schedule, and assignments are subject to change as the course evolves.

Weekly Class Schedule:

[Week 1: Introduction and First Discussion Assignment](#)

[Week 2: The Knights of Labor](#)

[Week 3: Industrial Capitalism and Workers in the Gilded Age](#)

[Week 4: The IWW, The UMWA, and Mother Jones; Paper 1 Drafts 1 and 2 and Peer Review](#)

[Week 5: Race, Immigration, and Exclusion](#)

[Week 6: Writing Conferences](#)

[Week 7: The Uprising of the 20,000 and the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire](#)

[Week 8: World War I and The Red Scare; Midterm Exam](#)

[Week 9: Work in the Roaring Twenties](#)

[Week 10: The Great Depression and the First New Deal](#)

[Week 11: The Rise of the CIO and the Second New Deal; Paper 2 Drafts 1 and 2 and Peer Review](#)

[Week 12: Working in the Arsenal of Democracy](#)

[Week 13: Writing Conferences](#)

[Week 14: Paper 2 Final Draft; Final Exam Review](#)

Final Exam period schedule to be announced

[Rutgers COVID-19 Information](#)

For up-to-date information about Rutgers and COVID-19, visit <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu>.
(<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu>)

[Additional Help With Writing](#)

[The Rutgers Learning Centers \(https://rlc.rutgers.edu/\)](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/) offers remote writing coaching services to students enrolled in this course. Visit <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/services/writing-coaching> (<https://rlc.rutgers.edu/services/writing-coaching>) for more information.

[Student Affairs](#)

[The Office of the Dean of Students](#) provides support to students who may be facing exceptional difficulties that could jeopardize their education. Visit their website to learn more about the type of

support they offer and/or to schedule an appointment.

Health & Wellness

[Student Health & Wellness Services \(http://shp.rutgers.edu/current_students/shrp_oss_mhc.html\)](http://shp.rutgers.edu/current_students/shrp_oss_mhc.html)





provides health services to students on its various campuses through Student Health Centers.

Technical Support

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas:

- Visit the [Canvas Video Guide \(https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/video-guide\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/video-guide)
- Contact [Rutgers IT Help Desk \(https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support\)](https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support) (<https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support>), call 833-OIT-HELP)
- Visit the [Getting Started in Canvas page \(https://tlit.rutgers.edu/getting-started-canvas-students\)](https://tlit.rutgers.edu/getting-started-canvas-students)

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Fri Jan 29, 2021	 Week 1 Discussion Forum: Student Introduction and 1877: The Grand Army of Starvation https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188957
Fri Feb 5, 2021	 Week 2 Discussion: The Knights of Labor and "Our Forgotten Labor Revolution" https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188956
Fri Feb 12, 2021	 Week 3 Discussion: Gompers vs. Carnegie https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188955
Mon Feb 15, 2021	 Paper 1 Draft 1 and Peer Review https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188961

Wed Feb 17, 2021	 Paper 1 Draft 2 and Writing Conference (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188962)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 26, 2021	 Week 5 Discussion: Ida B. Wells and the Anti-Lynching Movement; Wong Hau-Hon and the experiences of Chinese Immigrants (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188954)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	 Paper 1 Final Draft (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188963)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 12, 2021	 Week 7 Discussion: Legacies of the Triangle Fire (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1196886)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 28, 2021	 Midterm Exam (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188960)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 2, 2021	 Week 9 Discussion: A Job at Ford's (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188951)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 9, 2021	 Week 10 Discussion: The Big Strike (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188950)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 12, 2021	 Paper 2 Draft 1 and Peer Review (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188964)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 14, 2021	 Paper 2 Draft 2 and Writing Conference (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188965)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 23, 2021	 Week 12 Discussion: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188948)	due by 11:59pm

Mon May 3, 2021  [Paper 2 Final Draft](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188966) due by 11:59pm
(<https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188966>)

Mon May 10, 2021  [Final Exam - Open May 4 -10](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188959) due by 11:59pm
(<https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118017/assignments/1188959>)
