

**LSER Senior Seminar**  
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**Spring 2021, Wed. 3:55-6:55 pm ET (Remote/In-Person)**  
**LEC 137**

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**Course Site:** (Canvas): <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/118301>

### Course Overview

#### Description:

This course is designed to introduce upper-division undergraduate students to research and findings in the fields of labor studies, employment relations and human resources, and to raise significant philosophical questions that lie at the core of the discipline. It is also designed to help students strengthen their analytical and communication skills; and it will provide students with an opportunity to engage in deeper discussions about their areas of interest.

#### Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will meet the following official learning objectives of SMLR:

- 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 of a particular work situation (Goal IV)

In addition, successful students will also meet the following course specific goals:

1. Deepen their understanding of key historical and current workplace and social issues through exposure to a variety of research topics and methods;
2. Explore the ethical implications of alternative employment systems and relationships;
3. Develop and improve analytical and writing skills;
4. Create a culture of open discussion, constructive criticism and active collaboration between and among faculty and students.

#### Remote Learning Breakdown:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this class will be operated remotely. Here are a few things to keep in mind as we go through this semester:

- This class will be held synchronously via Zoom (meeting address will be in Canvas).
  - You are expected to have your camera on while you are on class time.
  - Zoom sessions will be recorded and posted to Canvas.
- I will require you to be active during class for participation and attendance credit (see Participation & Attendance section below).
- We will be utilizing the [Canvas](#) learning management system to access learning materials, post announcements, submitting assignments, and for communicating with each other.
  - Whenever anything is posted to this site, you will automatically receive a notification to your rutgers.edu email account. Checking that email account frequently is highly recommended as well.

## Grading and Course Requirements

Activity	% of grade:
Participation/Attendance	20
Current Event Presentations	20
Class Activities/Assignments	30
Final Paper	30

### Make-up policy:

All work will be due at 11:59 pm ET on Saturday nights. Late work will be accepted for one (1) additional week past the assignment due date, but will assume a 50% penalty, regardless of the reason. Please make sure you are not procrastinating with regard to your assignments. Ample time will be given to reasonably complete each assignment.

Rutgers policy on religious holidays: <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

### Participation & Attendance:

Regularly attending class is important for you to do well in this class. Because of this, I will take attendance each time we meet. Every question you answer and every activity you participate in will go toward this portion of the class, so the more active you are in class, the better off you will be. **If you miss more than 3 classes during the semester, it will cost you a letter grade.**

Below is a breakdown of how I will be rating your participation in class:

1. There will be an attendance check in each class that will be recorded. This will be fulfilled by you simply being present and having your camera on you during class time.
2. In class, students will be asked to answer questions posed in lecture by responding to questions in class. These questions will correspond to the topics at hand, to highlight important takeaways, and serve as attendance.
3. Each of your assignments will have a participation and peer feedback element to them as well. I try to emphasize teamwork and a collaborative, supportive work environment, and I strongly believe that learning and development should be structured to provide support and feedback not only from the instructor but also from your peers.
4. Personally, I value the diversity that students bring to the classroom. Students come from a variety of backgrounds with a wide range of knowledge, motivation, and interests. I really appreciate and enjoy hearing your viewpoints!

***Bottom-line: If I don't know who you are by the mid-point of the semester, you are not doing what you should be doing as far as interactions during class.***

### Class Activities

For each topic, there will be an activity or short paper that will need to be completed. These will aid in our class discussions and understanding of different topics. Citations will be required for any outside material that is utilized to complete these activities. All citations are to be done using Chicago Style (notes & bibliography method).

Peer evaluations will be done by every student both as a part of the activity grade as well as participation. Assignments will be graded both by me and by your fellow classmates. Your scores will be an average of all the scores received. Along with the scoring of your assignment, you will get a chance to give feedback and rate the evaluations that are given to you. We will be using a program called Kritik to accomplish this.

When you participate in Kritik activities, you will receive 3 scores: “Creation” score, “Evaluation” score and “Participation” score. To understand what these scores are and how they are calculated, please read the section “how scoring works” on Kritik’s help center [here](#).

An email invitation will be sent to your school email account that contains the link to register an account on Kritik online and enrol in the course. **You MUST use your university email to sign up in order to access the course.** If you did not receive any email yet, please contact Kritik using the live chat on kritik.io.

**How to get help:** If you have any questions about Kritik, please use **the live chat** in the app. We recommend that you do not contact your professor with any Kritik-related concerns, as they will need to ask us for assistance anyways. A human agent will respond promptly in a few minutes during business hours. You can also visit Kritik Help Center at <https://intercom.help/Kritik/en/collections/2347837-student-guide-to-kritik>, which outlines an overview to get you up and running on the system.

## Current Events

The topic can be any labor or employment story relating to an industry you are potentially interested in working in. You should create 3-4 slides and be able to talk for four to five minutes about the story.

- Presenters will share their screen with the class via WebEx to present and discuss their findings.
- Explain the basis of the story, stakeholders involved in the story, social and employment impact of the event.

This should be current (within the last 3 months) and have at least one verified news source to cite. Students should be prepared to answer questions and help lead a discussion about the topic.

Presentation slides/materials must be submitted by 11:59 pm ET the night before the student is scheduled to present (5 point penalty). If a scheduled presentation is missed and has to be rescheduled, there will be a 50% penalty (unless excused by professor).

## Final Paper

Your final deliverable for the semester will be a paper that will address issues covered during the semester as well as others that you find relevant to answering the given question. The topic will be given midway through the semester to allow for proper time to research and prepare.

Your paper should include examples and evidence from the topics we have discussed over the course of the semester AND evidence from other outside sources. The paper should include a **MINIMUM** of four (4) outside sources, at least two (2) of which **MUST** come from sources not included in the class readings and materials.

- Length - 5-7 pages (firm limits - page count does NOT include cover page and bibliography)
- Citations - Chicago Style (notes & bibliography)
- Formatting - Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1” margins
- Submissions are to be turned in on Canvas course site

## Extra Credit

There may be opportunities throughout the semester. If so, I will make sure you are aware of them. ***Don't count on extra credit to save your grade.***

## **University Guidelines and Resources**

### **Academic Honesty**

The University's policy on cheating and use of copyrighted materials is enforced in this class. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy for more detail regarding these policies: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>

All students registered for this course are asked to sign an Academic Integrity Contract (refer to the last two pages of this syllabus). You must return a signed copy to me or the course TAs and keep a copy for yourself. This contract includes detailed explanations of behavior that constitutes plagiarism and cheating. Examples of a breach of this contract with regard to this specific course include, but are not limited to: sharing your answers or copying another student's answers on examinations; sending a fellow student who did not attend class the answers to a poll to falsely indicate their presence; copying material that is not your own without providing proper documentation. In the event that this contract is breached, the punishment can range from receiving a failing grade on the assignment, to being placed on disciplinary probation or permanent expulsion from Rutgers.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services to determine his/her Coordinator. The Coordinator will then provide documentation to the student. Upon review and approval, the student must then provide this documentation to the instructor. Please refer to the Office of Disability Services for Students for more detail regarding this policy:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. Students may make requests for accommodations:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

### **Counseling**

CAPS is a comprehensive mental health resource center for the campus community. They offer a variety of high quality counseling services to Rutgers students in order to enhance both academic and personal achievement and progress. Please click on the following link to learn more about their services:

<http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/services/counseling>