

2023FA - RESEARCH METHODS LER 38:578:501:90 & 37:575:401:90

# Labor Studies 401/501: Research Methods in Labor Studies

## Rutgers University

Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations

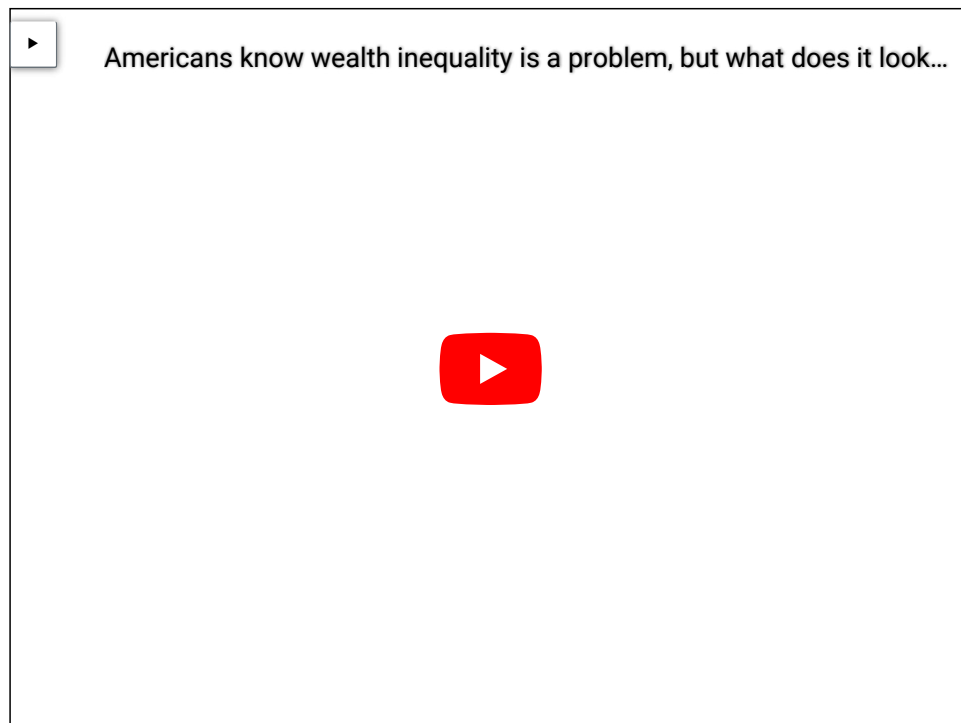
Professor Yana Rodgers, yana.rodgers@rutgers.edu

**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 1:00PM - 4:00PM in person; or email to set up Zoom appointment

## Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the methods of research most commonly employed by social scientists. Most of us are exposed to social research every day, from reports of the effects of the pandemic on telework to articles on the impact of having children on the gender wage gap. The main purpose of this course is to make you a more critical consumer of this kind of material in part by showing you how social research is done and also by engaging you in the process of social research itself.

## Why should this matter to me?



## Objectives

This course is designed to:

1. Help students to understand the basics of methodological reasoning – how to formulate research problems and how to understand issues of social causality.
2. Guide students in making ethical decisions in doing research.
3. Give students an understanding of the nuts and bolts issues of research – e.g., research design, sampling, measurement.
4. Allow students to develop their abilities as researchers by conducting a project using three specific methodologies.
5. Make students more critical consumers of the social science knowledge presented to them in their everyday lives.

## Required Texts

The required text for this course is:

Blackstone, Amy. 2012. Principles of Sociological Inquiry – Qualitative and Quantitative Methods. Saylor Foundation. Open access: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/139> ↗ <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/139>

This is a text by a sociologist, but social science research methods are pretty much universal across disciplines. This is a good basic text, and even better, it is open access and free. I will supplement with other readings as necessary. Any reading material in this course will be posted on Canvas.

## Course Requirements

- This is a combined undergraduate and graduate course. This means the requirements will differ somewhat for graduate students versus undergraduates. The main difference is that graduate students (enrolled in 501) *are required to* complete a research project. Undergraduate students (enrolled in 401) will not complete a research project and will take the exams instead.

- **Research Project – Graduate students only!** Much of your grade will be accounted for by the research project. This project will be completed in segments throughout the semester, each of which will build on one another. See Canvas for complete description. The research project will account for 30 percent of your grade.

**Examinations –Undergraduate students only!:** There will be three examinations, all of which will be a combination of short/long answers. Taken together, these will account for 30 percent of your grade.

- **Exercises:** There will be a series of exercises. These will count for 20 percent of your grade.
- **Lecture Reflections:** After viewing the lecture presentation every week, you will be responding to a series of questions on the lectures. The number of reflection questions per lecture will be variable, but this component of the course will be worth 30 percent of your grade.
- **Reading Comments/Discussion:** For each reading assignment, you will be required to post a substantive comment on the reading in the discussion section. In total, these comments will be worth 20 percent of your grade.
- **Class participation:** Keep in mind that Canvas gives me information on the time you spend in the course. Though I will not use this to take “attendance,” per se, it will matter in borderline cases.
- **Final Grade:** Your grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

Research Project/Exams	30 percent
Exercises	20 percent
Lecture reflections	30 percent
Reading comments	20 percent
Total	100 percent

## Policies

### *Class day/Assignment Policies:*

I have treated this class as if it meets on Tuesday morning at 10:00am every week, though of course I realize that this is an asynchronous class and you will be doing your assignments and listening to and reading the content as your schedules allow. Assignments, reflections on lectures, and comments on readings are all due by 11:59 PM on Monday night the following week. Hence each class week spans from Tuesday morning at 10:00am through and including the following Monday night at 11:59pm.

I expect you to submit your assignments on the specified due dates - this is especially important for project components. Refer to your Canvas classroom for each week’s assignment and/or project due dates. My grading policy for late assignments is as follows:

- 1 day late – 1% will be deducted from your total grade
- 3 days late – 10% will be deducted from your total grade
- 5 days late – 20% will be deducted from your total grade

Assignments more than 5 days late will have points deducted at my discretion - talk to me about why the assignment is late and when you plan to get it in. If you know you will be late with your assignments ahead of time, please contact me to discuss alternative dates, - ahead of time, preferably - but asap.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

For the purposes of this course, scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the submission of assignments that are plagiarized or written in collusion with another or the falsification of any records connected with this course or any examination. Plagiarism includes quoting or closely paraphrasing a printed source without giving appropriate credit (e.g. Gould, 2021:123). It is acceptable to talk with classmates about homework assignments, projects and papers. Handing in substantially the same assignment constitutes plagiarism, however. I will give a grade of 0 to any written assignment that appears to be substantially similar to that of another class member or that uses others' material without proper citation; further consequences may follow at my discretion. If you have any doubts at all about what constitutes plagiarism check with me before you turn in any assignment. I will use Turnitin.com for examinations and projects.

**Office hours:**

My office hours are Tuesdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in person, and you can also set up an appointment with me for a Zoom meeting to accommodate your schedule. My weekly office hours are a time when you can drop in to talk about whatever you want - questions you have about the material, how you're doing in the course, things that you find particularly striking (or irritating) about the course or the readings. Please do not hesitate to use this time. If you are having trouble, it is better for both of us if I know this early in the semester. Please also understand that I serve as Faculty Director of the Center for Women and Work and I try to maintain at least a little work/life balance myself. If I don't get back to you immediately (particularly outside regular business hours), you will hear from me as soon as possible.

**Copyright/Intellectual Property:**

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](https://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/10.2.13%20-%20current.pdf) [↗](https://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/10.2.13%20-%20current.pdf) [↗](https://docreader.readspeaker.com/docreader/?cid=8909&lang=en_us&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpolicies.rutgers.edu%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F10.2.13%2520-%2520current.pdf) [↗](https://docreader.readspeaker.com/docreader/?cid=8909&lang=en_us&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpolicies.rutgers.edu%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F10.2.13%2520-%2520current.pdf)

Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so. Finally, as the instructor for this course, I have the responsibility to protect students' right to privacy. Classroom recordings of students will therefore be treated as educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the U.S. federal law that governs access to educational information and records. Instructors and students must provide notification if any part of online sessions are to be recorded, and such recordings cannot be circulated outside the course.

<b>Unit One: Framing Research/Basic issues*</b>				
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
0	9/1 - 9/4	Learning your way around the Canvas course site	Course site activities	Complete week 0 activities

1	9/5 - 9/11	Epistemology and intro to methodology	Blackstone Ch 1	View lecture, post reflections Post comments on reading
2	9/12 - 9/18	Theory and research	Blackstone Ch 2	View lecture, post reflections Post comments on reading
3	9/19 - 9/25	Research Ethics	Blackstone Ch 3	View lecture, post reflections Post comments on reading
4	9/26 - 10/2	Topics in social research	Blackstone Ch 4 and Ch 5	Post comments on reading PROJ: Submit topic area
<b>Unit Two: Research Design and Methods</b>				
5	10/3 - 10/9	Sampling	Blackstone Ch 7	View lecture, post reflections Post comments on reading
10/6/2023 EXAM 1. Posted 10/6/23 at 10:00am Due by 10/9/23 at 11:59pm.				
6	10/10 - 10/16	Measurement	Blackstone Ch 6	View lecture, post reflections Post comments on reading

7	10/17 - 10/23	Experimental research	Blackstone Ch 12.2, supplement	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Occup Data homework due PROJ: Lit Review Due
8	10/24 - 10/30	Observation research	Blackstone Ch 10, supplemental article	PROJ: Observation sites approved (10/24)
				View lecture, post reflections
9	10/31- 11/6			Post comments on reading
				PROJ: Observation (11/6)
10	11/7 - 11/13	Content analysis	Blackstone Ch 11, article	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Content analysis homework due (11/13)
11	11/14 - 11/20			PROJ: Content analysis (11/20)
	11/17/2023	Exam 2. Posted 11/17/23 at 10:00am		Due by 11/20/23 at 11:59pm.

Thanksgiving Break

12	11/28 - 12/4	Quantitative data analysis	Blackstone Ch 8, supplemental material	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Bivariate data analysis due 12/13
13	12/5 - 12/11			PROJ: Data analysis (12/11)
14	12/12 - 12/13			
	12/8/2023	Exam 3. Posted 12/8/23 at 10:00am		Due by 12/15/23 at 11:59pm.
	12/19/23	Grad Students: Final projects due by 11:59 PM		
<p>* If the last year has taught us anything, it is that things change. If we need to shift dates around, I will do my best to announce this well in advance</p>				

Other LSER and University policies:

[Student Responsibilities \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Student%20Responsibilities?titleize=0\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Student%20Responsibilities?titleize=0)

[Computer/Software/Apps/Accessories Requirement](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Computer%2FSoftware%2FAppls%2FAccessories%20Requirement?titleize=0)

[\(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Computer%2FSoftware%2FAppls%2FAccessories%20Requirement?titleize=0\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Computer%2FSoftware%2FAppls%2FAccessories%20Requirement?titleize=0)

[Grade appeals \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/grade-appeals\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/grade-appeals)

[Special Needs Accommodations](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Special%20Needs%20Accommodations?titleize=0)

[\(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Special%20Needs%20Accommodations?titleize=0\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Special%20Needs%20Accommodations?titleize=0)

[Student Affairs - Office of the Dean of Students \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/student-affairs\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/student-affairs)

[Student Health & Wellness Services](https://shp.rutgers.edu/health-services/)  (https://shp.rutgers.edu/health-services/)

[Technical Support \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/technical-support\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/technical-support)

[Student Code of Conduct \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct?titleize=0\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct?titleize=0)

[TurnItIn Statement \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/turnitin-statement\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/turnitin-statement)

[Academic Integrity \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/rutgers-academic-integrity\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/rutgers-academic-integrity)

[Copyright Information Resources](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Copyright%20Information%20Resources?titleize=0)














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[Contacting your Instructor \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Contacting%20your%20Instructor?titleize=0\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/pages/Contacting%20your%20Instructor?titleize=0)







Proceed to [Learning Support Resources \(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/modules/1342173\)](https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/modules/1342173) and review the resources before starting the course module (Week 1) activities.

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Sep 8, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716148">Upload: log in and introduce yourselves (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716148)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 11, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716133">Discussion week #1: Read Blackstone Chapter 1 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716133)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716149">Week 1 Lecture Reflection Questions (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716149)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 18, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716132">Discussion week #2: Read Blackstone Chapter 2 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716132)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716152">Week 2 - Lecture Reflection Questions (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716152)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 25, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716131">Discussion week #3: Read Blackstone Chapter 3 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716131)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716130">Discussion week #4: Read Blackstone Chapters 4&amp;5 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716130)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 2, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716147">Research Topic selection (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716147)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716153">Week 4 - Lecture Reflection Questions (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716153)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716129">Discussion week #5: Read Blackstone Chapter 7 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716129)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 9, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716137">Exam 1 (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716137)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716154">Week 5 - Lecture Reflection Questions (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716154)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 16, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716128">Discussion week #6: Read Blackstone Chapter 6 and Comment (https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716128)</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716155">Week 6 Lecture Reflection Questions</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716155">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716155)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716127">Discussion week #7: Read Blackstone Chapter 12.2 and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716127">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716127)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 23, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716141">Literature review assignment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716141">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716141)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716142">Measurement exercise - Occupational segregation and gender wage gap</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716142">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716142)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 24, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716144">Observation site approval</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716144">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716144)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716126">Discussion week #8: Read Blackstone Chapter 10 and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716126">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716126)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 30, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716156">Week 8 - Lecture 8 Reflection Questions</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716156">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716156)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716125">Discussion week #9: Read Complementary Article and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716125">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716125)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 6, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716143">Observation presentation in Zoom</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716143">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716143)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716157">Week 9 - Lecture Reflection Questions</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716157">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716157)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716124">Discussion week #10: Read Blackstone Chapter 11 and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716124">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716124)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 13, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716135">Content analysis documentary</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716135">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716135)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716150">Week 10 Lecture Reflection Questions</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716150">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716150)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716123">Discussion week #11: Read Case Studies and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716123">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716123)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 20, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716136">Content analysis presentation in Zoom</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716136">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716136)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716138">Exam 2</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716138">(https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716138)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 4, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716138">Discussion week #12: Read Blackstone Chapter 8 and Comment</a>	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
	<a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716122">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716122</a>	
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716151">Week 12 Lecture Reflection Questions</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716151">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716151</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 11, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716146">Quantitative project presentation in Zoom</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716146">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716146</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 13, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716134">Discussion week #13-14: Read Complementary Article and Comment</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716134">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716134</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716145">Quantitative analysis</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716145">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716145</a>	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 15, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716139">Exam 3</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716139">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716139</a>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 19, 2023	 <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716140">Final Paper</a> <a href="https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716140">https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/252160/assignments/2716140</a>	due by 11:59pm



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