

# Syllabus for Labor and the Global Economy

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Spring 2018 Wednesdays, 9:50 am – 12:50 p.m.

Prof. David Bensman

Classroom, Murray Hall, Room 211

Prof. Bensman's email: [dhbensman@gmail.com](mailto:dhbensman@gmail.com)

Welcome to Labor and the Global Economy, a course offered by the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations of Rutgers University to undergraduate students. This course is designed to enable students to understand the challenges posed by corporate-led globalization to the efforts of workers and their institutions to promote their interests and preserve their communities.

David Bensman is Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations in the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations in the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in History in 1977. He began teaching at Rutgers in 1978. He is the author of several books, including, The Practice of Solidarity, American Hatters in the Nineteenth Century, (University of Illinois Press, 1985), Rusted Dreams: Hard Times in a Steel Community (with Roberta Lynch, McGraw-Hill, 1987, University of California Press, 1988), Who Built America? Volume 2 (with Steve Brier, The New Press, 1991), and Central Park East and Its Graduates: "Learning by Heart." (Teachers College Press, 2001). He was an Associate editor of Labor Research Review for most of its existence, and has been a member of the Dissent Magazine editorial board since 1972. He is co-chair of the Columbia University Seminar on Globalization, Labor and Popular Movements.

## **Books to Buy:**

Capital Moves by Jefferson Cowie

The Children of NAFTA, by David Bacon

Books are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

## **Schedule of Classes:**

Class One – January 17 Introduction

Film: China Blue

Class Two – January 24 The Age of Mass Production: Camden  
Required Reading: Cowie, pp. 1-40

Class Three – Jan. 31, Bloomington  
Required Reading: Cowie, 41-99

Class Four – Feb. 7 Ciudad Juarez and Back to Bloomington  
Required Reading: Cowie, 100-151

Class Five - Feb. 14 The Double Struggle in Ciudad Juarez  
Required Reading: Cowie, 152-209

Class Six Feb. 21 The Children of Nafta  
Required Reading: Bacon, 1-41  
First Paper Assignment Due

Class Seven Feb. 28 Putting Solidarity on the Table  
Required Reading: Bacon, 42-79

Class Eight March 6 Han Young  
Required Reading: Bacon, 80-120, 151-184

Class Nine March 20 Duro Means Hard  
Required Reading: Bacon, 185-251

Class Ten March 27 Offshoring  
Second Paper Assignment Due  
Reading: David Weil, see sakai site.

Class Eleven April 4 The Rana Plaza Case for Regulation  
Reading: (see sakai site)

Class Twelve April 11 Immigration and Precarity: Port Trucking  
Required Reading: Bensman. [www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Port Trucking Down the Low Road.pdf](http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Port%20Trucking%20Down%20the%20Low%20Road.pdf)

Class Thirteen April 18 Immigration and Precarity: Warehousing  
Required Reading: Martino and Bensman, “Regular Work in an Irregular Economy”  
Martino (see sakai site)

Class Fourteen April 25 Globalization and Precarious Work:  
Reading: Bensman and Kesselman, (see Sakai site).

**Assignments:**

Students will write three short papers (3-5 pages).

**Grading Policy:**

Attendance will count as 15% of grade.

Participation will count as 15% of grade.

The first paper will count as 20% of the grade. The second and third papers will count as 25% of the grade.

Papers will be graded on originality, use of evidence, clarity, and persuasiveness. Please familiarize yourself with Department guidelines on citation and plagiarism.