Syllabus (Draft)
School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University
Fall 2013

Course Number: 37:575:355:81
Day and Time: Tuesdays, 6:00-8:40 pm
Location: ACCC/Rutgers

Professor: Carmen Martino
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Phone: 609-567-9380
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Office Hours: By appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

II. EXPECTATIONS
Preparation
We will be covering a lot of ground in a very short time so please read and bring the
assigned material to each class, take good notes and come to class ready to discuss what
you’ve learned.

We Will Disconnect!
Using laptops, ipads or cell phones (including texting, talking, emailing, etc.) are all
prohibited during class. (Occasionally, I will ask/allow you to use laptops and ipads but I
will let you know when.)

Communication
Check your official Rutgers email account regularly for class announcements. I will
communicate any official course correspondence via email. Students are responsible for
all information communicated via email. Feel free to contact me via email with questions
or concerns about the course. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours.

When emailing always include “Labor and the Global Economy” in the subject line of
your email.

III. EVALUATION
Final grades will be based on the following:

1. Class Prep (12pts)
2. Class attendance (14pts)
3. Class participation (14pts)
4. Mid-Term (30pts)
5. Final Exam (30pts)

Class Preparation
It is vitally important that you come to class ready to contribute to the discussion. With this in mind, everyone will be required to hand in a 1-page summary (approximately 300 words) for each weekly reading assignment—including weeks 2-13. Each summary is worth 1 point of your final grade (for a total of 12pts). One-page summaries should be delivered to the Sakai drop box prior to the start of each class. (Note: I will read them and keep in touch on an as needed basis.)

**Attendance**

Fourteen points (14pts) of your final grade will be based on attendance so it is vitally important that you come to every class. Failure to sign the sign-in sheet will result in a loss of attendance points. You can only be excused for an illness, death in the family or other real emergencies.

Students who are late to class will lose attendance points so please be punctual. Also, if you leave early without permission you will be marked absent for the entire class.

**Participation**

Another fourteen points (14pts) of your final grade will be based on your in-class participation. Class sessions will include short lectures, small group discussions, group exercises and large group discussions. The expectation is that everyone will have an opportunity to actively participate in each class.

When participating in discussions use your experience and the information you get from the readings. When you take a position try to back it up with facts, data and examples. And above all, we must all be respectful and listen when others are speaking. You do not have to agree but you must give full attention and consideration to other points of view.

**Mid-Term and Final Exams**

The mid term and final will be worth 30pts each and they will be written take-home exams that will cover all course readings, lectures, discussion questions, films, exercises, etc. You will have one week to complete the mid-term and one week to complete the final exam.

**IV. COURSE READINGS**

All reading assignments are available on the course Sakai website. You can access the site by following these directions:

- Go to http://sakai.rutgers.edu
- To log on, enter your Rutgers net ID and password in the upper right hand corner.
- Look for the tabs at the top of the next page. Click on the tab: 37:575:355:01 Sp11.
- Click on “resources” on the menu on the left hand side of the next page. You should see the course syllabus and all of the course readings.

**V. SYLLABUS**

**W1. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - COURSE INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**
Read: The syllabus

In-Class: Introduction: Our expectations for the class and review syllabus
For Group Discussion: The context for our “Current Labor Problems”

PART I: Building a Foundation on “Dead” Economists

W2. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH – DEAD ECONOMISTS PART I

Read: Buchholz Todd, New Ideas From Dead Economists, Chapter 2: The Second Coming of Adam Smith and Chapter 6: The Angry Oracle Called Karl Marx

In-Class: Your Presentations on Smith and Marx

W3. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH – DEAD ECONOMISTS PART II

Read: Buchholz Todd, New Ideas From Dead Economists, Chapter 9: Keynes: Bon Vivant as Savior and Chapter 10: Milton Friedman and the Monetarist Battle Against Keynes

In-Class: Your Presentations on Keynes and Friedman

PART II: Income Inequality and Mobility

W4. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH – INCOME INEQUALITY

Read: Timothy Noah, Slate, The Great Divergence

In-class: Group Discussion: How did this happen and is Murray right?

W5. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST - MOBILITY

Read: Miles Corak, Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, Intergenerational Mobility, Journal of Economic Perspectives—Volume 27, Number 3—Summer 2013—Pages 79–102

In-Class Lecture/Discussion on how we define “Equality of Opportunity”
PART III: Politics

**W6. Tuesday, October 8th – Wealth and Winner Take All Politics**

Read: Hacker and Pierson, Winner Take All Politics, Chapters 1-3

In-Class: Lecture/Discussion and small group discussion on “How the game is rigid?”

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PART IV: Low Wage Work, High Finance, and Student Debt

**W7. Tuesday, October 15th – Nickel and Dimed**

Read: Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed, Chapter 3: Selling in Minnesota;

In-Class: Lecture/Discussion and small group discussion on who benefits from Cheap Labor

Film: Waging a Living

**Mid-Term Take Home Test (Due October 29th)**

**W8. Tuesday, October 22nd – Wage Theft and Working in the Shadows**

Read: Gabriel Thompson, Working In The Shadows, Part III: Flowers and Food

Bernhardt, Milkman, Theodore, Heckathorn, Auer, and DeFilippis, González, Narro, Perelshteyn, Polson, Spiller, Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers, Violations of Employment Labor Laws in American Cities;

In-Class: Lecture/Discussion on conditions of work in low-wage labor markets

**W9. Tuesday, October 29th – Student Debt**

Read: Link: NY Times Series, Degrees of Debt

Link: Student Loans: Debt for Life – Businessweek
http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-09-06/student-loans-debt-for-life

Link: Cutting Down Student Debt - WSJ.com
In-Class: Lecture/small group discussion on privatization, water and human rights

Documentary: Default The Student Loan

**MID-TERM TO BE HANDED IN AT THE START OF CLASS**

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**PART V: Global Finance**

**W10. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH – PART 1: THE LOOTING OF AMERICA**

Read: Les Leopold, *The Looting of America*, Chapters 6 and 7

In-Class: Lecture/group discussions on the economic collapse of 2008

Documentary: Capitalism Hits the Fan

**W11. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH – WALL STREET, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY**

Read: Les Leopold, How To Make a Million Dollars an Hour

In-Class: Lecture/group discussions on hedge funds and the role of technology

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**PART V: The Future**

**W12. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH – WHO OWNS THE FUTURE?: PART I**

Read: *(Readings to be announced)*

In-Class: Lecture/group discussions on technology, work and alienation

**W13. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD – WHO OWNS THE FUTURE?: PART II**

Read: *(Readings to be announced)*

In-Class: Lecture/discussion on a world without work!

**W14. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH – FINAL EXAM**