Syllabus for Labor and the Global Economy

37:575:363

Spring 2012, Thursday, 2:15 pm - 5:15 p.m.

Prof. David Bensman

Classroom, Hickman Hall, Room 115

Prof. Bensman's Phone: 732-932-1745

Fax: 732-932-8677

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 cochair of the NAFTA and Regional Integration Section of the Industrial Relations Research Association, and 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
The Work of Nations, by Robert Reich
Books are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.
Book Available on-line on Sakai:
Barbara Garson, Money Makes the World Go Around

Schedule of Classes:

Class One – January 19 Introduction Film: China Blue

Class Two – January 26 The Age of Mass Production: Camden Required Reading: Cowie, pp. 1-40

Class Three – Feb. 2, Bloomington Required Reading: Cowie, 41-99

Class Four – Feb. 9 Ciudad Juarez and Back to Bloomington Required Reading: Cowie, 100-151

Class Five - Feb. 16 The Double Struggle in Ciudad Juarez Required Reading: Cowie, 152-209

Class Six - Feb. 23 The Children of Nafta Required Reading: Bacon, 1-41 First Paper Assignment Due

Class Seven – March 1 Putting Solidarity on the Table Required Reading: Bacon, 42-79

Class Eight - March 8 Han Young Required Reading: Bacon, 80-120, 151-184

Spring Break March 15

Class Nine - March 22 Duro Means Hard Required Reading: Bacon, 185-251

Class Ten - March 29 The New Web of Enterprise Reich: pp. 77-135 Second Paper Assignment Due

Class Eleven - April 5 The Global Web Reich: pp. 136-170, Garson 7-40

Class Twelve - April 12 Looking for Loans Required Reading: Garson, 41-99

Class Thirteen April 19 Fish Farming Required Reading: Garson, 100-173

Class Fourteen April 26 The Investment Required Reading: Garson, 177-243

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