Development of the Labor Movement (201)

Prof. David Bensman

Office: Labor Education Center Room 145

Email: dhbensman@gmail.rutgers.edu

Telephone: 732-932-1745

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-4, or by appointment.

Books to Buy:

Who Built America? Volume I by Christopher Clark and Nancy Hewitt

James Loewen, Lies My Teacher Told Me (Make sure you get the 2008 edition, which is “completely revised and updated.”)

Books are available at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Ferrin Mall. Or they may be purchased from Barnes and Noble, online.

Class Schedule:

Unit One: Jan. 17-23 Introduction

Unit Two: Jan. 24-30 Thanksgiving

Reading: Loewen, Chapters 3.4

Unit Three: Jan. 31-Feb. 6 Three Worlds Meet

Readings: WBA? Chapter 1, pp. 3-61

Unit Four: Feb. 7-13 Servitude, Slavery and the Growth of the Southern Colonies

Readings: WBA? Chapter 2

Writing Assignment #1 due Feb. 7.

Unit Five: Feb. 14-20 Family Labor and the Growth of the Northern Colonies

Reading: WBA? Chapter 3
Unit Six: Feb. 21-Feb. 27 Towards Revolution

Editing Assignment due Feb. 21.

Reading: WBA? Chapter 4

Unit Seven: February 28-March 6 Revolution, Constitution and the People

Reading: WBA? Chapter 5

Unit Eight: March 7-13 The Consolidation of Slavery

Reading: WBA? Chapter 5, Loewen, Chapter 5.
Writing Assignment #2 due, March 7.

Spring Break: March 12-20

Unit Nine: March 21-March 27 Northern Society and the Growth of Wage Labor


Unit Ten: March 28-April 4 Immigration, Urban Life, and Social Reform in the Free Labor North

Readings: WBA? Chapter 8

Unit Eleven: April 5-11 The Spread of Slavery and the Crisis of Southern Society

Readings: WBA? Chapter 9

Unit Twelve: April 12-18 The Settlement of the West and the Conflict Over Slave Labor

Readings: WBA? Chapter 10, Loewen Chapter 6

Unit Thirteen: April 19-25 Reconstruction

Readings: WBA? Chapter 12

Unit Fourteen: April 26 – May 1 The Industrial Revolution and the Rebirth of the Labor Movement

Readings: WBA? Chapter 13

Writing Assignment #3 due, May 6.
Course Objectives:

This course is designed to enhance your skills in five areas:

a. critical thinking
b. relating social theory to personal experience
c. understanding employment relations in their social context
d. developing argument clearly and persuasively
e. supporting your argument with appropriate evidence

Your performance in class and on writing assignments will be assessed with reference to the above objectives.

Grading Policy:

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

1. participation in forums 20%
2. writing assignment 1 – 15%
3. Quizzes -20%
4. writing assignment 2 - 15%
5. writing assignment 3 - 20%
6. Editing Assignment – 10%