

# Syllabus for Labor and the Global Economy

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Fall, 2011, M & Thursday, 12:35-1:55 pm

Prof. David Bensman

Classroom, Hickman Hall, Room 202

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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 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 in the Ferrin Mall.

## **Book Available on-line:**

Barbara Garson, Money Makes the World Go Around

## **Schedule of Classes:**

Class One – September 1 Introduction

Class Two – September 8 Introduction

Required Reading: Cowie, pp. 1-11

Film: China Blue

Class Three – Sept. 13 The Age of Mass Production: Camden

Required Reading: Cowie, 12-40

Class Four – Sept. 15 Bloomington

Required Reading: Cowie, 41-72

Class Five – Sept. 20 Memphis

Required Reading: Cowie, 73-99

Class Six – Sept. 22 Ciudad Juarez

Required Reading: Cowie, 100-126

Class Seven Sept. 27 Back to Bloomington:

Required Reading: Cowie, 127-151

Class Eight Sept. 29 The Double Struggle in Ciudad Juarez

Required Reading: Cowie, 152-179

Class Nine Oct. 3 Conclusion to Capital Moves,

Required Reading: Cowie, 180-209

Class Ten Oct. 6 The Children of Nafta

Required Reading: Bacon, 1-17

First Paper Assignment Due

Class Eleven Oct. 10 Grapes and Green Onions

Required Reading: Bacon, 19-41

Class Twelve Oct. 13 Putting Solidarity on the Table

Required Reading: Bacon, 42-59

Class Thirteen Oct. 17 Tijuana's Maquiladora Workers

Required Reading: Bacon, 60-79

Class Fourteen Oct. 20 Han Young

Required Reading: Bacon, 80-120

Class Fifteen: Oct. 24 The Strategic Alliance

Required Reading: Bacon, 151-184

Class Sixteen Oct. 27 Duro Means Hard  
Required Reading: Bacon, 185-223

Class Seventeen Oct. 31 Mexico's Wars Over Privatization  
Required Reading: Bacon, 224-251

Class Eighteen Nov. 3 The New Web of Enterprise  
Reich: pp. 77-109

Class Nineteen Nov. 7 The Global Web  
Reich: pp. 110-135

Class Twenty Nov. 10 The Coming Irrelevance of Corporate Nationality  
Required Reading: Reich, 136-170

Class Twenty-One Nov. 14 The Bank of Millbrook and Chase Manhattan  
Required Reading: Garson, 7-40  
Second paper Assignment Due

Class Twenty-Two Nov. 17 Looking for Loans  
Required Reading: Garson, 41-99

Class Twenty-Three Nov. 21 Fish Farming  
Required Reading: Garson, 100-136

Class Twenty-Four Nov. 22 Singapore  
Required Reading: Garson, 137-173

Class Twenty-Five Nov. 28 The Investment  
Required Reading: Garson, 177-206

Class Twenty-Six Dec. 1 Restructuring  
Required Reading: Garson, 207-243

Class Twenty-Seven Dec. 5 After Restructuring  
Required Reading: Garson, 244-284

Class Twenty-Eight Dec. 8 The Asian Economic Crisis  
Required Reading: Garson, 287-318

Class Twenty-Nine Dec. 12 Conclusion  
Required Reading: Garson, 319-327  
Dec. 15 Third Paper Due

**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.