Syllabus for Labor and the Global Economy

37:575:363
Summer 2012, Tuesday and Thursday, 6 pm – 9:50 p.m.
Prof. David Bensman, dbensman@rci.rutgers.edu
Classroom: LEC, Room 130/131
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 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.

Schedule of Classes:

Class One – May 29 Introduction
Film: China Blue

Class Two – May 31 The Age of Mass Production: Camden
Required Reading: Cowie, pp. 1-40

Class Three – June 5 Bloomington
Required Reading: Cowie, 41-99

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

No class June 12

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

Class Six – June 19 The Children of Nafta
Required Reading: Bacon, 1-41
First Paper Assignment Due

Class Seven – June 21 Putting Solidarity on the Table
Required Reading: Bacon, 42-79

Class Eight – June 26 Han Young
Required Reading: Bacon, 80-120, 151-184

Class Nine – June 28 Duro Means Hard
Required Reading: Bacon, 185-251

Class Ten – July 3 The New Web of Enterprise
Reich: pp. 77-135

Class Eleven – July 5
Reich, pp. 136-170. The Global Web,
Second Paper Assignment Due

Assignments: Students will write two 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 35% of the grade. The second paper will count as 35% 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.