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U.S. Labor and Work Before the End of Reconstruction

Fall 2019 Syllabus
Syllabus is subject to change.

Monday, 6:10pm-9:00pm
Scott Hall, Room 115
Dr. Shawn Taylor
sktaylor@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rutgers Academic Building, Room 1125
848-932-1662 (office phone)

Please note: Make sure to read the Course Essentials in Canvas

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (September 9) Introductions and Overview

No class readings

In-class video: Excerpt from, Christopher Columbus and the Age of Discovery

Week 2 (September 16) Sources of Coerced Labor in the Colonies

White Trash pp. 17-28

Week 3 (September 23) Servitude and Slavery in the Chesapeake Colonies

****Writing Assignment I Posted****

American Colonies pp. 143-152

The Barbarous Years pp. 63-67; 71-77

Week 4 (September 30) Race and Class in the Virginia Colonies

The Barbarous Years pp. 174-179

1619: Jamestown pp. 85-117

Week 5 (October 7) Peer Review

Writing Assignment I Due

Class will meet in the computer lab, Academic Building, rooms 1210 and 1220

Week 6 (October 14) The Culture of Artisan Work

"Tom Paine and Revolutionary America" pp. 28-39

"The First Unions" pp. 23-30

Week 7 (October 21) The Consolidation of Slavery in the South

Who Built America? pp. 265-323

Week 8 (October 28) The Changing Nature of Work

Writing Assignment II Posted

Adam Smith, "Of the Division of Labor"

Alexis de Tocqueville, "How an Aristocracy May Be Created by Manufactures"

Melvyn Dubofsky, "Labor Strength in the 1830s" pp. 54-65

Week 9 (November 4) The Worsening of Work

Sean Wilentz, "Metropolitan Industrialization" pp. 108-119

In class video excerpt: "Race: The Power of an Illusion"

Week 10 (November 11) Peer Review

Writing Assignment II Due

Class will meet in the computer lab, Academic Building, rooms 1210 and 1220

Week 11 (November 18) One Perspective on Industrialism and the American Worker

"How Capitalism Enriched the Working Class" pp. 93-101

Week 12 (November 25) Convict Laborers in the South and the "Railroad Chinese" in the West

Writing Assignment III Posted

Slavery by Another Name pp. 51-98

Ghosts of Gold Mountain pp. 1-13; 138-164; 209-236

Week 13 (December 2) Reconstructing the Nation , 1865-1877

In-class video: "1877: The Grand Army of Starvation"

Week 14 (December 9) Peer Review

Writing Assignment III Due

Class will meet in the computer lab, Academic Building, rooms 1210 and 1220