

575:202:03 History of Labor and Work in the US, 1880-1945 – Preliminary and Subject to Change

Professor: Dr. James Robinson
Class meetings: Fridays 1:00PM-4:00PM
Office Hours: 1PM-2PM Wednesdays via Zoom or by appointment
Contact: jameswjrobinson@gmail.com or jr1589@rutgers.edu
Location: Cook/Douglass Lecture Hall Room 110

Zoom: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/my/jr1589?pwd=MDRYMkhCaGNIRkVQdE9EUDV1OXRWQT09>

INTRODUCTION

History has often been presented as the story of how powerful people have changed human societies over the course of time, with presidents, generals, and the wealthy playing central roles. This course will turn the standard approach on its head and instead look at America and the changes it has undergone through the eyes of working people.

This course will explore the history of working people the United States from the end of Reconstruction through the end of World War II. Through looking at labor history, we will learn about social and political history as well in order to examine this pivotal period in the lives of the ordinary people of the United States.

This course is aimed primarily at students who have little or no experience with college-level history and assumes no prior knowledge of the historical developments we will cover.

2021 Pandemic Note

We seemed to be rounding the corner, but as of late summer, the Delta variant seems to forcing covid back into our lives as it incubated in the unvaccinated. Because of that, we will have to wear masks during this class. This is mandatory by Rutgers policy. I hope this is as bad as it gets, but I am prepared if Rutgers mandates it to turn this class into a virtual class if things continue to spiral. But for now, this will be a live class with masks. Wear them, and wear them correctly (over the nose). Failure to do so will result in students being asked to leave the class and reported to Student Conduct. Please inform me if you test positive and need to isolate, as well.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course meets in person, combining lectures and discussions. While I don't take attendance, I will have regular quizzes that cannot be made up. At the end of the semester, your two lowest scoring quizzes will be dropped. I expect you to arrive at class having read the material and ready to discuss it. We meet for 3 hours, which is a long time, so there may be days when we let out early or take breaks in the middle of class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The student is able to:

Core Curriculum: SCL, HST, WCr and WCd

- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time. (Goal K)
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization. (Goal M)
- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision. (Goal S)
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and

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analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. (Goal T)

School of Management and Labor Relations:

- Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry-level professional. (Goal I)
- Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation. (Goal IV)

Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories and concepts in the field of labor and employment relations. (Goal 1)
- Make an argument using contemporary or historical evidence. (Goal 4)

REQUIRED TEXT

Rosenzweig, Lichtenstein, Brown, Jaffee, *Who Built America? Vol. 2* (Third Edition, ISBN 978-0312446925)

The textbook will be provided to you as a PDF on Canvas, but used copies are quite inexpensive online, if you desire a tangible version.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Read the syllabus

Do the readings

Turn in your assignments on time

Make sure your assignments are submitted

Attend and participate in the meetings

EVALUATION

Written assignments

You will write two papers this semester, on topics to be announced. Each accounts for 20% of your final grade. You will write several drafts of each. All are mandatory, as is participation in peer review. If you miss a peer review session, it is your responsibility to make it up, or you will receive no credit for it. Missing your writing conference, or coming unprepared, will earn you a significant reduction on your paper grade. Each part of the process counts toward your final assignment grade. I expect an honest attempt at a full paper for all drafts. Doing otherwise will negatively impact your grade. It is your responsibility to make sure you turn in each draft and your peer editing form. If you do not have a submission receipt from Canvas, then you have not submitted your essay, and you will be graded accordingly. Declining to make substantial changes to your drafts (unless otherwise advised) will result in a failing grade. Turning in no final paper, or turning in only a final paper, or turning in the same paper multiple times, will result in a zero.

Lateness Policy

All late assignments will be marked down. One grade will be deducted for every 24-hour period (or portion thereof) your paper is late. That is, a B paper will turn into a C paper if it is up to 24 hours late, and into a D paper if it is up to 48 hours late. While the drafts are not assigned letter grades, failing to turn them or turning them in late will have the same effect on the final draft you hand in for a grade.

You must complete all written assignments in order to receive credit for this course. We will turn back all assignments in a timely manner. If we do not turn back your assignment, it is your job to bring this to our attention. If you believe we have not recorded a grade for an assignment you have turned in, you must

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clear this up during the semester. After the semester is over, we will not be able to consider claims that you turned in an assignment if we have no record of it.

Discussion forums

Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, I have decided to scrap the in-class quizzes and revert to Discussion posts instead. They will be pass/fail and be similar to what the quizzes would have been, but will be done at home and be open-book.

For most classes, you will have discussion posts due on Canvas. I will post primary sources and several questions for you to answer about each. You are also required to respond to at least one of your discussion group members, for each discussion topic, which helps to make what you are doing actual discussions, one day later. All posts will be due on Tuesdays 11:59PM and response to a classmate's post on Thursdays 11:59PM.

For example: your first discussion posts will be due at 11:59 PM on Tuesday September 30th. Your response to at least one of your peers, in each discussion topic, will be due by 11:59 PM on Thursday, September 30th. All discussion posts will be due on Tuesdays at 11:59PM, and discussion responses to other students due on Thursday at 11:59PM. See syllabus for specific dates.

Please indicate which questions you are answering, and separate each into its own paragraph.

Your initial answers and responses should both be substantive contributions, every time. A single-sentence answer and "I agree!" as a response will not earn credit. Please put some time into these, as they are not box-checking exercises to take up your time. I don't expect multiple-paragraph answers (though if you are really feeling it, go for it!), but these discussions are a prime method of learning, and the more work you put into them, the better off we all are.

All discussions are mandatory, and any that you do not complete will result in a lower grade.

I will drop two missed discussion posts at the end of the semester.

Class Discussion

We will often discuss readings in the course. It is on you to come prepared to discuss issues related to the materials. Discussions will engage with the material, so class participation is required. If you don't keep up with the readings, you will not do well on this part of the course. Come ready to ask questions and answer questions as best as you can.

Cheating/plagiarism

There are serious consequences, including expulsion, for both cheating and taking someone else's work without attribution. The university has clear, strict policies on these matters. I will report all violations. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policy by visiting academicintegrity.rutgers.edu The relevant parts are brief and straightforward. If you have any questions, please see me.

Exams

There will be a first exam due October 29th, and a second exam due December 17th. They will be written long answer essays that are take-home exams (not in class.)

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Discussion Posts	10%
Paper I	20%
Paper II	20%

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First exam	20%
Second exam	20%

Use of Class Materials

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to the syllabus, videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university's Academic Integrity Policy. Instructors and students must provide notification if any part of online sessions are to be recorded, and such recordings cannot be circulated outside the course.

Extra Credit Opportunities

1. Tutor for New Students (Students who add the class late, you volunteer to catch them up.)
2. Student Evaluations (Email me a copy of the completed course evaluations at the end of the course and I'll add 5 points to the lowest of your 1st paper, 2nd paper, and 1st exam.)
3. Watch the documentary "Slavery by Another Name" (available through Rutgers Library in Kanopy) and write a 5 page review.
4. Other opportunities available and am open to student proposals for extra credit.

Statement on Abilities and Accommodations

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 3 Introduction and The Failures of Reconstruction

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter One, Cornerstone Speech, I Have A Dream Speech

September 10 The Gilded Age and the Chinese Exclusion Act

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Two,

Watch "Grand Army of Starvation"

Handing Out 1st Paper Prompt

September 17 Immigration and urbanization

Reading **Reconstruction and Civil Rights documents (for paper)**, Sumner and Carnegie

Due Paper Thesis Statement and Outline (bring to class)

September 24 Washington and Du Bois, Jim Crow

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Three, Washington, and Du Bois

October 1 Populism and consumerism, Imperialism

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Four, Populist Platform, Aguinaldo

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- Due** **Discussion Posts September 28th 11:59PM, Responses to Classmates September 30th 11:59PM, First draft of first paper** due by class (Peer Reviewer assigned after class), Peer Reviews due Monday October 4th 11:59PM
- October 8** **The Progressive Era and lynching**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Five, Wilson, Sanger
Due Discussion Posts October 5th 11:59PM, Responses to Classmates October 7th 11:59PM, Second draft of first paper by class
- October 15** **The Great Migration**
Reading Bond
Watch *An Outrage: The History and Legacy of Lynching in the South* (available through Rutgers Library in Kanopy)
Due Discussion Posts October 12th 11:59PM, Responses to Classmates October 14th 11:59PM
- October 22** **Writing conferences (Zoom!)**
- October 29** **World War I**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Six
View WWI Posters (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/>)
Listen 15 Minute History podcast: The “Spanish” Influenza of 1918-20
Handing Out First Exam
Due Discussion Posts October 26th 11:59PM, Response to Classmates October 28th 11:59PM, **Final Draft of First Paper by classtime**
- November 5** **Immigration and eugenics**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Seven, Congressional Debates, Virginia Sterilization Act, Immigration Sources (for paper)
Handing Out 2nd Paper Prompt
Due Discussion Posts November 2nd 11:59PM, Response to Classmates November 4th 11:59PM **First Exam by classtime**
- November 12** **The 1920s**
Watch *The Night Tulsa Burned*
Due Discussion Posts Nov 9th 11:59PM, Response to Classmates November 11th 11:59PM, **First draft of second paper by classtime**
- November 19** **The Great Depression**
Reading/Listen *Who Built America* Chapter Eight, *Waterfront Worker*, “Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?”
Due Discussion Posts November 16th 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Nov 18th 11:59PM
- November 26** **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
- December 3** **The New Deal and the CIO**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Nine, Roosevelt
Watch Sit-Down and Fight
Due Discussion Posts November 30th 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Dec 2nd 11:59PM **Final draft of second paper by classtime**

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December 10 World War II

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Ten, Wesley, *The Auto Worker*

Handing Out Second Exam

Due Discussion Posts December 7th 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Dec 9th 11:59PM

December 17 Second exam due (11:59PM)