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

Spring 2018 Syllabus

Dr. Shawn Taylor

Send a message via Canvas Inbox messaging tool

848-932-1662 (office phone)

Office Hours: By appointment

DESCRIPTION: This course begins with the European exploration and colonization of North America and ends in the late nineteenth-century with the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Course themes include bound, contract, indenture, and slave labor systems of early America; the culture of work and community of apprentice, journeymen, and master craftsmen in the world of the artisan's republic; the rise of merchant capitalism and the emergence of wage labor; the changing organization of work from handicraft to factory; workers' collective responses to technology, managerial control, and industrialization; and the impact on the lives of workers and those who transformed the United States into the world's preeminent industrial power.

ACCESSING THE COURSE

This course is taught 100% online using the **Canvas** CMS.

Canvas login: <https://onlinelearning.rutgers.edu/canvas-login>

Once the login page opens, click "NetID Login" and enter your NetID and password. You will gain access to the course.

Students **MUST** first **accept the invitation to join the course** sent to their official Rutgers email address to be able to access the course. The course opens the 1st day of the semester.

Need Assistance with a technical question?

It is the student's responsibility to be able to perform technically in the course. Contact helpdesk staff if you need assistance using the **Canvas** LMS. Your instructor cannot assist you with technical issues – but the helpdesk staff can!

Helpdesk: Rutgers Center for Online and Hybrid Learning and Instructional Technologies (COHLIT)

Email: help@Canvas.rutgers.edu

Call: 877-361-1134 24 hrs./7 days

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives. The student is able to:

Core Curriculum: SCL, HST, WCr and WCd

- Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place (Goal h).
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems and other forms of social organization.
- Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations. (Goal n).
- Explain the development of some aspect of society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history or science. (Goal k).
- Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors. (Goal L)
- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience. (Goal S1).
- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision. (Goal S2).
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry. (Goal t).
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and the use of conventions of attribution and citation correctly. (Goal u).
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. (Goal v).

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).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Writing Assignment I	200 pts.
Writing Assignment II	250 pts.
Writing Assignment III	300 pts.
Peer Review I	50 pts.
Peer Review II	50 pts.
Peer Review III	50 pts.
Writing Exercise I	25 pts.
Writing Exercise II	25 pts.
Forum I	25 pts.
Forum II	25 pts.

- A = 900 to 1,000 points
- B+ = 870 to 899 points
- B = 800 to 869 points
- C+ = 770 to 799 points
- C = 700 to 769 points

D = 600 to 699 points
F = 599 and below

MESSAGE CHECKING POLICIES

Messages Sent to Instructor's Canvas Inbox

Unless students receive advance notification, the instructor will check her Canvas Inbox by 10:00 am ET on regular workdays. (This excludes Sundays and Spring Break.) If a student sends a comment or question, the instructor will address the contents of the message within 24 hours.

Messages Sent to Student Canvas Inbox

You are responsible for regularly checking incoming course messages. Messages are always sent through the Canvas messaging system. You will receive a notification when a new message has been sent to your Canvas inbox. Forgetting or being unable to check for messages is not an excuse.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

To receive credit for this course, you need to complete all writing assignments. There will be three writing assignments, each five pages in length. Once an assignment is posted, you will have two weeks to submit a rough draft of your paper. You will devote the following week to peer review. You will then have one week to submit your final draft. Respect the deadlines.

Please note: Papers are due on the designated deadlines. Make sure to back-up your work. Late papers—those submitted the minute after they are due—will be downgraded one full letter grade, and an additional full letter grade for each subsequent day the paper is late.

Read the [“Writing Assignments Overview and Policies.”](#)

Turnitin

This course uses Turnitin, a plagiarism-detection software program. When you upload your paper electronically, Turnitin automatically receives a copy that instantly analyzes, identifies, and highlights any instances of copied phrases, sentences, or passages from its repository, which includes sources from the Internet and student papers.

Academic Integrity

When you write your papers, you are to use only those sources assigned in class. This course forbids the use of Internet or any other sources, under any circumstances, even if this information is properly cited. If you chose to ignore this injunction, you will fail the assignment and face possible charges from the Office of Compliance, Student Policy, and Judicial Affairs.

COURSE READINGS

All required excerpted readings are available through Canvas.

Laurence Bergreen, Columbus: The Four Voyages.

Nancy Isenberg, White Trash: The 400-Year History of Class in America.

Bernard Bailyn, The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America: The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675.

Thomas Di Lorenzo, How Capitalism Saved America, Chapter 6, “How Capitalism Enriched the Working Class.”

Douglas Blackmon, Slavery by another Name.

Melvyn Dubofsky, Industrialism and the American Worker, 1865-1920, Chapter 3, “Workers, Industry and Society,” “Labor Strength in the 1830s,” and “The First Unions.”

Christopher Clark, et al., Who Built America: Working People and the Nation’s History.

Eric Foner, Tom Paine and Revolutionary America.

Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, Chapter 1, “Of the Division of Labor”

Alan Taylor, American Colonies.

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, “How an Aristocracy Can Be Created by Industry”

Selected Virginia Statutes Related to Slavery

Sean Wilentz, “Metropolitan Industrialization”

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (January 18) Discovery and First Contact

Columbus: The Four Voyages pp. 195-204

Video excerpt, Christopher Columbus and the Age of Discovery

Video: “Word Crimes”

Week 2 (January 25) Sources of Coerced Labor for the Colonies

Video: “Rockin’ English”

White Trash pp. 17-28

Week 3 (February 1) Servitude and Slavery in the Chesapeake Colonies

Forum I opens February 1

First comment for Forum I due February 3 by 11:59 p.m.

Forum I closes February 6 at 11:59 p.m.

Video: “Zombie Nouns”

American Colonies pp. 142-152

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

Week 4 (February 8) Race and Class in the Virginia Colonies

Writing Assignment I Posted February 8

Writing Assignment I Rough Draft due February 13 by 11:59 p.m.

Video: “Editing Sentences”

Writing Resource: “The Writer’s Diet”

American Colonies pp. 153-157

The Barbarous Years pp. 174-179

Jamestown Laws on Slavery a.k.a Virginia Statutes

Week 5 (February 15) Peer Review

Writing Assignment I Rough Draft Peer Review due February 20 by 11:59 p.m.

Week 6 (February 22) The Culture of Artisan Work

Writing Assignment I Final due February 27 by 11:59 p.m.

Tom Paine and Revolutionary America pp. 28-39

“The First Unions” pp. 23-30

Week 7 (March 1) The Consolidation of Slavery in the South

Who Built America? pp. 265-323

Week 8 (March 8) The Changing Nature of Work

Writing Assignment II Posted March 8

Writing Assignment II Rough Draft due March 20 by 11:59 p.m.

Adam Smith, "Of the Division of Labor"

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

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

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (March 22) The Worsening of Work

Writing Assignment II Rough Draft Peer Review due March 27 by 11:59 p.m.

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

Week 10 (March 29)

Writing Assignment II Final due April 3 by 11:59 p.m.

Week 11 (April 5) Competing Perspectives of Industrialism and the American Worker

Forum II opens April 5

First comment for Forum II due April 7 at 11:59 p.m.

Forum II closes April 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Thomas DiLorenzo, "How Capitalism Enriched the Working Class"

Melvyn Dubofsky, "Industrialism and the American Worker"

Video: "Slavery by another Name"

Week 12 (April 12) The Convict Leasing System in the South

Writing Assignment III Posted April 12

Writing Assignment III Rough Draft due April 17 by 11:59 p.m.

Douglas Blackmon, *Slavery by another Name* pp. 53-65

Video: "The West: Speck of the Future"

Week 13 (April 19) Reconstructing the Nation, 1865-1877

Writing Assignment III Rough Draft Peer Review due April 24 by 11:59 p.m.

Video: "1877: The Grand Army of Starvation"

Week 14 (April 26) New Frontiers: Westward Expansion and Industrial Growth, 1865-1877

Writing Assignment III Final due April 30 at 11:59 p.m.