

*Preliminary: Subject to Change*

**History of Labor and Work in the US, 1880-1945**

**37:575:202**

**Loree 020**

**Wednesday 10:55 a.m.-1:55 p.m.**



**Instructor: Patrick McGrath**

Email: mcgrath85@gmail.com

Office Hours: Labor Education Center Room 136A, Wednesday 3 p.m.-5 p.m., or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to American social and labor history, focusing on the role of working people in the making of the modern United States. Topics will include the effects of urbanization and immigration on the American social order; the rise of corporate capitalism; the relationship between culture, politics, and the economy; colonialism and the rise of a radical left; the Depression and the New Deal; and the dynamics of race, class, and gender in the context of labor and work. In general, we will examine how ordinary people contributed to the broad social, political, and economic transformation of the United States between 1877 and 1945.

### **Required Course Materials**

The only material required for this course is a textbook—Roy Rosenzweig et al, *Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's History, Volume 2: 1877 to the Present* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008), Third Edition. **Please make sure to acquire the Third Edition.** This title will be available for purchase from the Rutgers bookstore at Barnes and Noble; it can also be purchased from various online book vendors, including Amazon.com. An e-book version is also available. Please note that only **VOLUME 2 is required for this course.**

Additional primary-source readings will be uploaded to the course website. Students will be notified via Sakai when additional readings have been posted.

### **Assessments**

Student assessment will be based on two examinations (a midterm accounting for 20% of the final grade, and a final exam accounting for 25%), two papers (the first paper will be worth 20% of the final grade, the second paper 25%), and class participation (10%).

The **exams** will consist of short answers and essays, drawing on material from the lectures and assigned readings.

Because this **course meets the writing requirement for SAS**, students will be required to submit drafts of their papers, engage in peer-review sessions, and revise their drafts accordingly.

Late papers will incur a penalty of ½ a letter grade per day (i.e., an A paper would receive a B+). **Please not that this policy also applies to first drafts.**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required at all class meetings. **More than 2 unexcused absences** will negatively affect a student's overall participation grade. **More than 6 unexcused absences** will result in a failing grade for the course.

To receive an excused absence, students must provide prior notice to the instructor and provide formal documentation explaining their absence.

### **Grades:**

A = for a consistently exceptional performance in the course

B-B+ = for a strong command of the course material

C-C+= for a competent understanding of the course material

D = for unsatisfactory work

F =for unacceptable work

### **Electronics Policy**

Students may bring laptop computers to class for the purpose of taking notes. The use of cell phones, except in the case of emergencies, is not permitted during class.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students should present their work honestly and acknowledge when they borrow the language and ideas of others. To help avoid issues of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, students should familiarize themselves with the Rutgers's academic integrity guidelines (<http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/plagiarism>).

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students in need of modified accommodation for exams and/or course assignments should contact the Office of Disabilities Services (<https://ods.rutgers.edu>).

### **Learning Objectives:**

This course meets a number of SAS learning objectives. "A Rutgers SAS graduate will be able to:"

*In the history and social science areas of the core:*

**H:** Understand the basis and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.

**K:** Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.

**L:** Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors

**M:** Understand different theories of human culture; social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

*In the writing and communication area of the core:*

**SI:** Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.

**S2:** Provide and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers and instructors/supervisors through successive drafts.

**T:** Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.

**U:** Evaluate and critically assess sources and use conventions of attribution and citation correctly.

**V:** Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

### **Course Schedule and Assignments**

**Jan 17      Introduction**

- January 23**    **The Failures of Reconstruction and the Rise of Industrial Capital**  
*WBA? Chapter One*
- January 30**    **Labor and Capital and in the Gilded Age**  
*WBA? Chapter Two*
- February 7**    **The Making of the Working Class I**  
*WBA? Chapter Three*
- February 14**    **The Making of the Working Class II**  
*First Draft of Paper 1 Due*
- February 21**    **Modernization and Its Discontents**  
*WBA? Chapter Four*
- February 28**    **Midterm**
- March 7**        **Radicals and Reformers I**  
*WBA? Chapter Five*  
*Final Draft of Paper 1 Due*
- March 14**      **Spring Break**
- March 21**      **Radicals and Reformers II**
- March 28**      **The World at War**  
*WBA? Chapter Six*
- April 4**        **The Roaring Twenties: Prosperity, Conservatism, Reaction**  
*WBA? Chapter Seven*  
*First Draft of Paper 2 Due*
- April 11**      **The Great Depression: Politics, Labor, and the Economy**  
*WBA? Chapter 8*
- April 18**      **The New Deal**  
*WBA? Chapter Nine*
- April 25**      **War, Recovery, and the Rise of the American Global Order**  
*WBA? Chapter Ten*  
*Final Draft of Paper 2 Due*
- Final Exam: TBA**

