

575:202:08 History of Labor and Work in the US, 1880-1945 – Preliminary and Subject to Change

Professor: Dr. James Robinson
Class meetings: Wednesdays 3:50PM-6:50PM (roughly)
Office Hours: By appointment (in Zoom room)
Contact: jameswirobinson@gmail.com or jr1589@rutgers.edu
Location: Tillett Hall Room 103A

Zoom: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/4827626887?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.

2022 Pandemic Note

We will have to wear masks during this class. 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. I expect you to arrive at class having read the material and ready to discuss it. You will do 4 major assignments (2 papers and 2 exams), weekly discussion posts on canvass, and in-class lectures and activities.

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 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)

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- 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 three drafts of the first paper, and two drafts of the second paper. All are mandatory, as is participation in peer review for the first paper. If you miss a peer review, 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.

Submissions are to be submitted on Canvas, through the Turnitin function.

Lateness Policy

All late major 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 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

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You will complete weekly discussion posts pertaining to the assigned course materials outside of the textbook. They will be Complete/Incomplete.

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 Mondays 11:59PM and response to a classmate's post on Tuesdays 11:59PM. The only exception to this will be in the first week.

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 answers should be in paragraph form, with at least 3-5 sentences per answer and response to classmate.

All discussions are mandatory, and any that you do not complete will result in an Incomplete. There are no makeups, so if it is late, you get an Incomplete.

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

Attendance and Class Discussion

You are expected to come to class on time. I will have a sign-in sheet which you will mark. If you arrive late, you'll need to mark an "L" next to your name.

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, without warning. 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.

All major assignments are submitted to TurnItIn. This means it is extremely easy to catch cheating and plagiarism. If you present any other work than your own as your own, such as copying something from the textbook word for word without quotations and without citation, you are cheating, whether it was intentional or not.

Exams

There will be two exams. They will be written long answer essays that are take-home exams (not in class.) Submissions are to be submitted on Canvas, through the Turnitin function.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

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

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First exam	20%
Second exam	20%

I grade according the following grade breakdown:	A 89.5-100
	B+ 84.5-89.49 B 79.5-84.49
	C+ 74.5-79.49 C 69.5-74.49 D 59.5-69.49
	F 0-59.49

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 (competition of any of the first three will result in adding 5 points to the lowest of your 4 major assignments. You may do more than one extra credit assignment.)

1. Tutor for New and Covid effected 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)
3. Watch the documentary "Slavery by Another Name" (available through Rutgers Library in Kanopy) and write a 750 word 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

January 19	Introduction and The Failures of Reconstruction
Reading	<i>Who Built America</i> Chapter One, Cornerstone Speech, Mississippi Black Codes
Due	Discussion Posts Thursday Jan 20 11:59PM, Responses to Classmate Friday Jan 21 11:59PM
January 26	The Gilded Age and the Chinese Exclusion Act
Reading	<i>Who Built America</i> Chapter Two, Knights of Labor Preamble
Watch	"Grand Army of Starvation"
Due	Discussion Posts Monday Jan 24 11:59PM, Response to Classmate Tue Jan 25 11:59PM
Handing Out	1 st Paper Prompt
February 2	Immigration and urbanization
Reading	Reconstruction and Civil Rights documents (for paper), Sumner and Carnegie

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Due Discussion Posts Monday Jan 31 11:59PM, Response to Classmate Tue Feb 1 11:59PM, Paper Thesis Statement and Outline (bring to class)

February 9 Washington and Du Bois, Jim Crow

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

Due Discussion Posts Monday Feb 7 11:59PM, Response to Classmate Tue Feb 8 11:59PM

February 16 Populism and consumerism, Imperialism

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

Due Discussion Posts Monday Feb 14 11:59PM, Responses to Classmates Tuesday Feb 15 11:59PM, **First draft of first paper** due by class (Peer Reviewer assigned after class), Peer Reviews due Friday Feb 18 11:59PM

February 23 The Progressive Era

Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Five, IWW Preamble, Sanger

Due Discussion Posts Monday Feb 21 11:59PM, Responses to Tues Classmates Feb 22 11:59PM, **Second draft of first paper by class**

March 2 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 Monday Feb 28th 11:59PM, Responses to Classmates Tues Mar 1 11:59PM

March 9 Writing conferences (Zoom!)

SPRING BREAK

March 23 World War I, Influenza Pandemic, Red Scare

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 Mon Mar 21 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Tue Mar 22 11:59PM, **Final Draft of First Paper by classtime**

March 30 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 Mar 28 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Mar 29 11:59PM, **First Exam by classtime**

April 6 The 1920s

Watch *The Night Tulsa Burned; Tiktok of West Virginia Coal War*

https://www.tiktok.com/@thisiscory/video/6957525290595781893?is_from_webapp=v1&is_copy_url=1

Due Discussion Posts Mon Apr 4 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Tue Apr 5 11:59PM

April 13 The Great Depression

Reading/Listen *Who Built America* Chapter Eight, *Waterfront Worker*, “Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?”

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Due **Discussion Posts Mon Apr 11 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Tue Apr 12 11:59PM**
First draft of second paper by classtime

April 20 **The New Deal and the CIO**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Nine, SWOC: “A New Declaration of Independence”
Watch Sit-Down and Fight
Due **Discussion Posts Mon Apr 18 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Tue Apr 19 11:59PM**

April 27 **World War II**
Reading *Who Built America* Chapter Ten, Wesley, *The Auto Worker*
Handing Out **Second Exam**
Due **Discussion Posts Mon Apr 25 11:59PM, Response to Classmates Tue Apr 26 11:59PM**
Final draft of second paper by classtime

May 4 **Second exam due, 11:59PM**