
“History does not merely refer to the past . . . history is literally present in all we do.”

--James Baldwin

37:575:201:90

Spring 2025 Syllabus (Asynchronous)
Preliminary—Subject to Change

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Why study U.S. Labor and Work before the End of Reconstruction?

Reconstruction is just one part of the history James Baldwin wanted America to see. In that sense, the history of our nation remains an inspiration for those who hope to build a freer and more equal America. I am hoping that throughout the semester you will develop a deep appreciation for the continuance of Mr. Baldwin’s words.

How do I get in touch with my instructor?

Use the Inbox messaging tool in Canvas. If you need to meet with me, I will schedule a meeting using Zoom.

If you need accommodations, let me know as soon as possible. You have the right to have your needs met.

How can I be a good citizen in this class?

- You owe it to your peers to submit your work on time, whether participating in a forum or reviewing your peer’s paper. You owe it to yourself, so that you can take full advantage of the points.

What should you be able to *know* and *do* by the end of this course? (CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES)

- Explain the development of some aspect of society or culture over time. (HST)
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization. (SCL)
- 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 & revision. (WCr)
- 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. (WCd)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, and concepts in the field of labor and employment relations. (LSER Dept. 1)
- Make an argument using contemporary or historical evidence. (LSER 4)
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. (SMLR I)

How will I be evaluated?

You will be evaluated based upon forums, peer reviews, and written assignments.

How are you graded?

Criteria	Points
Forums (2)	50, 50
Peer Reviews (2)	50, 50
Writing Assignments (5)	250, 100, 100, 100, 250

	Important Due Dates
Forum 1	Opens January 28 First comment due by January 29 at 11:59 a.m. Two replies to peers due January 30 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment 1	Opens February 4 Rough Draft due by February 18 at 11:59 a.m. Peer Review due by February 20 at 11:59 a.m. Final Draft due by February 25 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment 2	Posted March 4 Due by March 11 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment 3	Posted March 11 Due by March 14 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment 4	Posted March 25 Due by April 7 at 11:59 a.m.
Forum 2	Opens April 15 First comment due by April 16 at 11:59 a.m. Two replies to peers due by April 17 at 11:59 a.m.
Writing Assignment 5	Posted April 15 Rough Draft due by April 29 at 11:59 a.m. Peer Review due by May 1 at 11:59 a.m. Final Draft due by May 6 at 11:59 a.m.

Modules	Assignments
Academic Integrity & Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism Discovery and First Contact	Video: Academic Integrity & Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism <i>Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies</i> pp. 14-17 The Four Voyages pp. 195-204 Video : <i>Columbus and the Age of Discovery</i> Podcast: <i>Feral Hogs</i> Video: <i>Word Crimes</i>

Sources of Coerced Labor in the Colonies	Video: <i>Rockin' English</i> <i>White Trash</i> pp. 17-28
Servitude and Slavery in the Chesapeake Colonies	<i>Barbarous Years</i> pp. 162-179 Video: <i>Zombie Nouns</i>
Race and Class in the Chesapeake Colonies	<i>A Dreadful Deceit</i> pp. 1-7; 40-45 <i>Jamestown: 1619</i> pp. 85-117 Video: Editing Sentences
The Culture of Artisan Work	<i>Tom Paine and Revolutionary America</i> pp. 28-39
The Consolidation of Slavery in the South	<i>Masterless Men</i> pp. 62-89 Video: <i>Race: The Power of an Illusion</i>
The Changing Nature of Work	Adam Smith, "Of the Division of Labor" Alexis de Tocqueville, "How an Aristocracy May Be Created by Manufactures" Podcast: "Why does the Most Monotonous Job in the World Pay \$1 Million?"
The Worsening of Work	"Metropolitan Industrialization" pp. 108-119
The 49'ers of the West	Video: <i>The West: The Speck of the Future</i>
California Gold Rush	<i>The World Rushed In</i> pp. 45-60; 312-320; 357-364; 375-380
Civil War Slave Impressment	"Throwing Up Breastworks" pp. 45-70
The Lowell Experiment	"The Oppressing Hand of Avarice" pp. 11-60

****Please see the module on Course Essentials in Canvas for information on Turnitin, Academic Integrity, Disability Services, and Writing Assignments Overview and Policies.****