

Development of the Labor Movement (201:90)

Prof. David Bensman

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David Bensman is Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations in the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in History in 1977. He began teaching at Rutgers in 1978. He is the author of several books, including, *The Practice of Solidarity, American Hatters in the Nineteenth Century*, (University of Illinois Press, 1985), *Rusted Dreams: Hard Times in a Steel Community* (with Roberta Lynch, McGraw-Hill, 1987, University of California Press, 1988), *Who Built America? Volume 2* (with Steve Brier, The New Press, 1991), and *Central Park East and Its Graduates: "Learning by Heart."* (Teachers College Press, 2001).

Books to Buy:

Who Built America? Volume I by Christopher Clark and Nancy Hewitt

James Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me* (2007 edition)

Note: Do not buy the earlier edition. It is out of date!

Books are available at on-line booksellers like Amazon, Powell's Books, Barnes and Noble, etc. Powell's, which is the only union on-line bookseller, is at www.powells.com

Class Schedule:

Unit One: Sept. 19-23 Introduction

Student Introductions

Unit Two: Sept. 24-30 The First Thanksgiving

Readings Loewen, Chapters 3,4

Unit Three: Sept. Jan. 31-Feb. 6 Three Worlds Meet

Readings: WBA? Chapter 1, pp. 3-61

Unit Four: Feb. 7-13 Servitude, Slavery and the Growth of the Southern Colonies

Readings: WBA? Chapter 2, pp. 62-109

Writing Assignment #1 Due, Feb. 13

Unit Five: Feb. 14-20 Family Labor and the Growth of the Northern Colonies

Readings: WBA? Chapter 3, pp. 110-159

Unit Six: Feb. 21-27 Towards Revolution

Reading: WBA? Chapter 4, pp. 180-209

Editing Assignment Due, Feb. 27

Unit Seven: Feb. 28-March 5 Revolution, Constitution, and the People

Reading: WBA? 210-263

Unit Eight: March 6-11 The Consolidation of Slavery

Readings: WBA? Chapter 6, 265-323, Loewen, Chapter 5

Writing Assignment #2 Due, March 11

Unit Nine: 21 March 21-26 Northern Society and the Growth of Wage Labor

Readings: WBA? Chapter 7, 325-375

Unit Ten: March 27- April 2 Immigration, Urban Life, and Social Reform in the Free Labor North

Readings: WBA? Chapter 8, 377-425

Unit Eleven: April 3-9 The Spread of Slavery and The Crisis of Southern Society,

The Settlement of the West and the Conflict over Slave Labor

Readings: WBA? Chapter 9, 427-475, Loewen Chapter 6

Unit Twelve: April 10-17 The Settlement of the West and the Conflict over Slave Labor

Readings: WBA? Chapter 10

Unit Thirteen, April 18-24

Readings: WBA? Chapter 11

Unit Fourteen: April 25-30 The Civil War: America's Second Revolution

Readings: WBA? Chapter 12

Unit Fifteen: April 31-May 2 Reconstruction and the Industrial Revolution, Industrial Frontiers,

Readings: Chapter 13 WBA? 632-679

Writing Assignment #3 Due, May 5

Objectives:

This course is designed to enhance your skills in five areas:

- a. critical thinking
- b. relating social theory to personal experience
- c. understanding employment relations in their social context
- d. developing argument clearly and persuasively
- e. supporting your argument with appropriate evidence

Note: This course fulfills a Rutgers GSAS writing requirement. Consequently, I will endeavor to help you improve your writing by giving you a lot of feedback on your posts and writing assignments. Your performance in class and on writing assignments will be assessed with reference to the above objectives. Your writing assignments are expected to conform to Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity. A guide to how to cite sources properly is included in the Resources section, as are writing guidelines.

Grading Policy:

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

1. Participation in forums 15%

2. Writing assignment 1 – 15% When you submit writing assignments, name them with your last name followed by the number of the assignment: Author1, Author2, etc.
3. Editing assignment – 15%
4. Writing assignment 2 - 15%
5. Writing assignment 3 - 20%
6. Quizzes, 20%