

*Preliminary: Subject to Change*

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

**37:575:202:01:02**

**Murray Hall—Room 133**

**Wednesday 6:10 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**



**Instructor: Patrick McGrath**

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Office Hours: Café at Zimmerli Museum, Wednesday 4 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 twentieth-century 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; attempts both by working people and the state to shape the American capitalist order, particularly in the interwar period; and the general dynamics of race, class, and gender in the context of labor and work.

### **Required Course Materials**

The only material required for this course is a textbook—Christopher Clark et al, *Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's History, Volume 2: Since 1877* (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 identifications 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 with their fellow students, and revise their drafts accordingly.

Over the course of the semester we will have several unannounced **quizzes**, which will ask students to summarize or interpret material from that day's assigned reading. These quizzes will be factored into students' participation grade.

### **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.

### **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**

<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>Introduction to the Course</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>The failures of Reconstruction</b> WBA Chapter One
<b>February 1</b>	<b>The Gilded Age &amp; The Rise of Organized Labor</b> WBA Chapter Two
<b>February 8</b>	<b>Immigration and Urbanization</b>
<b>February 15</b>	<b>Populism &amp; Colonialism</b> WBA Chapter Three

*First Draft of Paper 1 Due*

**February 22 Efficiency and Modernization**

**March 1 The Progressive Era**  
WBA Chapter Four  
*Final Draft of Paper 1 Due*

**March 8 Mid-Term**

**March 15 Spring Break**

**March 22 Immigration and WWI**  
WBA Chapter Five

**March 29 The Great Migration**  
WBA Chapter Six

**April 5 The 1920s**  
WBA Chapter Seven

**April 12 The Depression**  
*First Draft of Paper 2 Due*

**April 19 The New Deal**  
WBA Chapter Eight

**April 26 World War II**  
WBA Chapter Nine

**Final Draft Due May 3 (classes end May 1)**

**Final Exam: TBA**