

History of Newark

21:512:203

Fall 2015

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Classroom: Hill 103

Thursday: 6:00-9:00pm
Office Hours: Thursdays: 5:00-6:00pm
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Course Description:

This course will examine the almost 350 year history of the nation's third oldest city, Newark NJ. Our goal will be to gain an understanding of both the critical events that shaped the city specifically, but also to engage in the narrative threads that define urban evolution in the United States more broadly. We will begin our story before the Puritans arrived and end it with an assessment of where we are today. This course is how Newark became Newark, and all the meanings that encompasses.

Through class discussion, students will interact with the materials, the instructor, and their peers. In the process, they will practice both their public speaking skills, and learn how to engage critically with the arguments and evidence of the texts. Students will also regularly practice their writing skills in essay exams and papers. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop their analytical skills by identifying the course readings' main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

Grading and Assignments:

Exam One:	25%
Exam Two:	25%
Scavenger Hunt Project:	30%
Reading Response Papers	10%
Quizzes, Class Participation, and Attendance:	10%

Readings:

All readings are posted on Blackboard.

You are required to read what is listed on the schedule below **BEFORE** you attend class and you must read **ALL READINGS** each class.

It is essential that you bring each days reading with you to class.

Reading Response Papers:

You must submit FIVE typed response papers for FIVE readings on the syllabus that have a star next to them.

Response papers are due via email before the start of class on the day reading is assigned. You CANNOT just hand five in at the end of the semester.

The response should be **1-2 pages.**

In your response you can focus on any of these three topics:

1. The significance of document in the larger historical Newark narrative
2. A section or point that stood out to you and why
3. A connection it had to a previous reading or topic discussed in class

Class Participation and Attendance:

Attending class is not optional. Class lectures not only include discussions on your assigned readings, but the material presented is what you will be tested on. In-class participation will improve your grade in the course; whereas unexcused absentness and lateness will negatively affect your grade.

Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Scavenger Hunt:

**The assignment will be distributed during the first month of class.*

**I will also schedule a walking tour of Newark towards the end of the semester during the day for those who are interested and/or available.*

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating

Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments (including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports) and other written assignments, using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations, copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own, and misappropriating the knowledge of others. The sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and data, including Internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form; failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism.

Violations of academic integrity may result in a lower grade or failure in a course and in disciplinary actions with penalties such as suspension or dismissal from the College.

The university's policy on academic integrity is available at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Academic Integrity Pledge and the Rutgers Honor Pledge on each exam.

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.”

Semester Schedule

September 3: *Is Perception Really Reality?: Newark, What We Know and What We Think We Know*

- Nark, Jason, *Politico Magazine*, “Is Newark the Next Brooklyn?”

September 10: *Welcome to Milford: Newark's Puritan Beginnings*

Readings:

- McCormick, Richard, *New Jersey from Colony to State, 1609-1789*, 17-23
- New Jersey Historical Society, *Records of Newark*, v-x and 1-2
- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “Between Hope and Fear: A Legend of the First Lenape Encounter with Europeans”
- Cummings, Charles, *The Star-Ledger*, “17th Century's Framework Can Be Seen in Today's City”

September 17: *True Life: I'm a Newark Colonist, 1700s-1800 and The Rise of the Industrial City: Street Life: War on the Battlefields and Battles on the Street, 1800s*

Readings:

- Paine, Thomas, “The American Crisis”
- Cunningham, John, *Newark*, 191-195
- Robeson Center Gallery, *Newark: Genesis of a City*
- Galishoff, Stuart, *Newark: The Nation’s Unhealthiest City, 1832-1895*, 49-86

September 24: *The First Wave: Irish and German Immigration, 1840-1900*

Readings:

- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “Germans Assaulted Indiscriminately: Ethnic Violence in Hoboken (1851)”
- Exhibition at the Newark Public Library, 2007, “The Irish in Newark and New Jersey”
- New Jersey State Archives “WPA Irish Case Histories”
- Stephenson, Charles, *Eighth Annual New Jersey Symposium, 1976*, “The Process of Community: Class, Culture, and Ethnicity in Nineteenth-Century Newark”

October 1: *The New Kids on the Block: The Jewish and Italians, Early 1900s*

Readings:

- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “These Foreigners Must Be Educated: Americanizing the Immigrant (1916)”
- Immerso, Michael, *Newark’s Little Italy: The Vanished First Ward*, 1-30 and 65-80
- Exhibition at the Newark Public Library, 1995, “Lasting Impressions: Greater Newark’s Jewish Legacy”

October 8: *An Era of Reform: Newark in the Progressive Era, 1890-1930:*

Part One: Immigrants, Suffrage, Labor, and Fredrick Law Olmsted

Part Two: The Golden Age, Consumerism, Bootlegging, and the Building Up a of City

Readings:

- Bender, Thomas, *Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in Nineteenth Century America*, 168-187
- Cunningham, John, *Newark*, 250-263
- Price, Willard. “The Ironbound District,” 1912

- Stelhorn, Paul, “Boom, Bust, and Boosterism: Attitudes, Residency and Newark Chamber of Commerce, 1920-1941 in Wright, William ed., *Urban New Jersey Since 1870*
- *The New York Times*, “Newark Begins Celebration of 250th Birthday
- Cunningham, John, *Newark*, 195-197
- Reeves, Ira, *Ol’Rum River*

October 15: Mid-Term Exam

October 22: Beleaguered City: The African-American Experience in Newark and the Citywide Impact of the Great Depression

Readings:

- Price, Clement A. “The Beleaguered City as Promised Land: Blacks in Newark, 1917-1947, in Lurie, Maxine *A New Jersey Anthology*.
- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “Strikebreaker or Color-Barrier Breaker?: Race and the Labor Movement (1923)” – excerpt from William Ashby’s *Tales Without Hate*.
- Mokarry, Adrienne, *The Star-Ledger*, “Glimpse of History: Commencement at Scott College of Beauty Culture

October 29: Scripting Newark: Roth and Baraka: A Tale of Two Newarks, Then A Few More, and Suburbia Too

- Baraka, Amiri, *Raise, Race, Rays, Raze, Essays Since 1965*, “Newark – Before Black Men Conquered”
- Roth, Philip, *Goodbye, Columbus*, excerpt
- Galant, Debra, *New York Times*, “Look Homeward: From Roth to Baraka to Reiken, Essex County is 127 Square Miles of Literary Inspiration”

November 5: A Place to Call Home: The Prequel and the Sequel to 1967: Public Housing in Newark

Readings:

- Levitus, David, *The Newark Metro*, “Planning, Slum Clearance and the Road to Crisis in Newark,” 2005
- Jackson, Kenneth, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*, 238-251, 257-261, and 269-276

- Price, Clement A., *New Jersey Reporter*, “Along the New Jersey Divide,” 1996
- Cunningham, John, *Newark*, 338-345
- Rosenthal, Jack, *The New York Times*, “Housing Study: High Rise=High Crime,” 1972
- Smothers, Ronald, *The New York Times*, “Barren Lots Symbolize Frustration Blacks Feel,” 1972
- *The New York Times*, “Stella Wright Housing Crisis: Tenants Are Angered Troubles Began Early,” 1973
- *The New York Times*, “Tenants’ History of a Project: from a Heaven to a Hell Hole,” 1974
- Vergara, Camilo Jose, *The New York Times*, “Blowing Up Projects Doesn’t Solve Problems of Housing,” 1987
- Levy, Clifford. *The New York Times*, “4 High-Rises Torn Down By Newark,” 1994
- Smothers, Ronald, *The New York Times*, “A Step to End Newark’s Chapter in High-Rise Public Housing Projects,” 1999
- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “Constitutional Rights Cannot Wait for Political Consensus: The Supreme Court Addresses the Housing Problem (1983)”
- DiIonno, Mark, *The Star-Ledger*, “Museum Preserving Piece of Crumbling Newark Complex,” 2012

November 12: 1967

Readings:

- Green, Howard, ed., *Words That Make New Jersey History*, “The Summer of 1967: The Newark Riots” – excerpts from Amiri Baraka’s autobiography and “Report for Action”
- Parks, Brad, *The Star-Ledger*, “Crossroads: Part 1-4,” 2007
- Price, Clement A., *The Positive Community*, “Newark Remembers the Summer of 1967, So Should We All,” 2007

November 19: “Still Much More to Be Done”: Road to the Renaissance City

Readings:

- *The New York Times*, “Still Much More to Be Done,” 1967
- Asbury, Edith Evans, *The New York Times*, “Kenneth Allen Gibson,” 1970
- Shipler, David, *Harper’s Magazine*, “The White Niggers of Newark,” 1972
- Williams, Roger, *Saturday Review World*, “America’s Black Mayors: Are They Saving the Cities?,” 1974

- Louis, Arthur, *Harper's Magazine*, "The Worst American City," 1975
- Gibson, Ken, response to "The Worst American City"
- Winters, Stanley, *The New York Times*, "Newark: Don't Let It Die," 1976

November 26: No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3: *How Do We Urban Revitalize?: The Sharpe James Years*

Readings:

- Price, Clement A., "Newark and the Rhetoric of Optimism," in *Blue: Newark Culture*, vol. 2, 1993
- Jardim, Gary, "The Myth of the Renaissance City," in *Blue: Newark Culture*, vol. 2, 1993
- Sullivan, Joseph, *The New York Times*, "The Two Newarks; Boom Amid Bust – A Special Report; In Newark, Downtown Glitter Battles Neighborhood Gloom," 1991
- Smothers, Ronald, *The New York Times*, "As Newark Bounces Back, So Does Mayor," 1998
- Smothers, Ronald, *The New York Times*, "Newark's Rebirth Pushes Westward; On a Clear Day, Future is Visible From the City's Tallest Building," 2000
- Jacobs, Andrew, *The New York Times*, "A Newly Cool Newark Says, 'C'mon Over!,' 2000

December 10: #Newark: *What Has, Does, and Will it Mean?*

- Raab, Scott, *Esquire*, "The Battle of Newark, Starring Cory Booker," 2008
- Booker, Cory, *Esquire*, Cory Booker's Response, 2008
- Greenblatt, Alan, *NPR News*, "After Cory Booker, Newark Takes A New Turn," 2014
- Russakoff, Dale, *The New Yorker*, "Schooled: Cory Booker, Chris Christie, and Mark Zuckerberg had a plan for to Reform Newark's schools. They got an education," 2014"

December 17: Final Exam