HISTORY OF NEWARK
21:512:203:01
Fall Semester, 2018

Dr. Thomas A. McCabe
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one semester course examines the richly textured history of New Jersey’s largest and most important city. Locating the local narrative within the broader historical context of Urban America, Newark can be viewed as a metaphor for American urban development, decline, and resurgence. Essentially, the tale of the third oldest city in America is about a city’s rise and fall, resurrection and renaissance. Relying upon a variety of source material, the course will survey the breadth of Newark’s past, from its Puritan beginnings to its post-industrial present. In particular, the course will explore Newark’s emergence as a major American industrial city in the late 19th century and the long, infamous decline that marked the second half of the 20th century. The course concludes with recent efforts toward revitalization following the disorders of July 1967.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In this class, students will learn how to make connections between the past and the present in the city where they go to school. By interrogating a variety of sources, both primary and secondary ones, they will learn how historical arguments are constructed and how they are put “in conversation with one another.” Through discussion in class as well as class lectures, students will interact with these materials, the instructor, and their peers. In the process, they will practice public speaking skills and learn how to critically assess various arguments. Students will also practice their writing skills in one short paper and a final paper. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop analytical skills by identifying the course readings’ main theses, supporting arguments, and evidence.

BLACKBOARD:

The course syllabus and readings are posted on Blackboard, and it is essential that you consult the site on a regular basis. In lieu of a course packet, each reading assignment is available as a .PDF file. It is suggested that you purchase a 3-ringer binder to organize these readings. Outlines, study questions, brief assignments and other materials will also be posted on Blackboard.
GRADING:

• Participation: 10%
• Quizzes 15%
• “Produce” Assignments 10%
• Midterm Examination: 20%
• Think-Piece Essay: 20%
• Final Examination: 25%

Attendance/Absences/Comment Cards: Class attendance is mandatory and it is essential to performing well in this course. Students are responsible for all material presented and discussed in class. Toward the end of each class period, you will be expected to write down a comment or question relevant to the material covered that day. Cards will be collected at the conclusion of class and your attendance grade will be determined by the number of cards handed in by the end of the semester. The overall course grade is lowered by a half letter for each unexcused absence starting with the fourth. Students who miss 8 or more sessions for any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course. Such students should withdraw from the class.

Participation: Participation in class discussion is encouraged and will be noted as an important contribution to the success of the course. It is expected that students will be prepared to actively participate in class. The participation grade will be calculated as follows:

• Full Participation 10 points
• Consistent, thoughtful 8 points
• Sporadic 6 points
• Minimal 2-4 points
• Zero 0 points

Policy on Academic Integrity: Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment – essays, papers, journals, quizzes – must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.”

Disabilities: 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: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form. For more information please the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

“Produce” Assignment: The “Produce” assignment asks students to produce proof of their learning, such as a short video or written assignment. Students are required to submit one “Produce” assignment during the course of the semester. (A list of sample “Produce” assignments is posted in Blackboard).

Think-Piece Essay: A five-page essay is due on a broad theme or combinations of themes involving Newark on December 14th. The nature of this assignment will be discussed in detail in class. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Mid-term and Final Examinations: Both examinations will include a combination of identification of key terms/ideas and essays. Study guides, including a list of possible essay topics, will be handed out in class prior to both exams.

Required Readings:

Required readings are listed week by week below and are due on the date assigned. There is no course packet so it will be necessary to print out the readings and keep them organized in a binder or folder. Each student must purchase Brad R. Tuttle, How Newark Became Newark: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of an American City (Rutgers University Press, 2009), and Philip Roth, Goodbye, Columbus (1959).
Course Topics and Reading Assignments:

Tu, Sept 4  Course Introduction and Newark in the Nation’s Imagination

Th, Sept 6  Godly Government: Puritan Beginnings in Newark


Tu, Sept 11 Colonial Newark: Village Life through the American Revolution


Th, Sept 13  A Village Becomes a City: The Making of an Industrial Giant


Tu, Sept 18 Urban Crises: Fire, Water, Disease and Crime


Th, Sept 20  Age of Giants: Industrial and Political Revolutions, 1860-1900


Tu, Sept 25 Newark on Foot: A Walking Tour of the Renaissance City

Th, Sept 27 “Old” Immigrants: Nativism & Newark’s Forgotten Riot


Tu, Oct 2  Newark’s “New Immigrants”: Jewish Settlements and Little Italy’s

Th, Oct 4  The Master City? Newark’s Progressive Movement, 1910-1930


Tu, Oct 9  Emergence of Newark’s African American Community, 1917-1970


Th, Oct 11  In-Class Midterm Examination

Tu, Oct 16  Leisure Time and Popular Culture in Newark, 1900-1950


Th, Oct 17  Public Policy in Urban America: The Case of Newark


Tu, Oct 23  Native Sons and Newark: Philip Roth and Amiri Baraka


Tu, Oct 30  A City of Promise: Newark’s Black Freedom Movement

Th, Nov 1  Newark’s Summer of Discontent Revisited


Tu, Nov 6  Screening of Revolution 1967


Th, Nov 8  From Riot to Recovery


Tu, Nov 13  A Sharpe Change? Or a New American Ghetto?

Tuttle, How Newark Became Newark, chapter 8; Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, chapter 6.

Th, Nov 15  A School and a City: the Case of St. Benedict’s Preparatory School


Tu, Nov 20  The Newest Arrivals: Immigration Reconsidered

Read various articles on The Ironbound section in Blackboard folder.

Th, Nov 22  THANKSGIVING DAY—NO CLASS

Tu, Nov 27  Street Fight: Post-Civil Rights Era Politics in Newark

Th, Nov 29  Reinventing Newark: Visions for a Post-Industrial City


Tu, Dec 4  Newark in the New Millennium

Th, Dec 6  Writing Workshop (attendance is optional)

Tu, Dec 11 Newark’s Rollercoaster Ride Through History: A Review

* Think-piece Paper Due!!

Th, Dec 20  Final Examination, 8:30–11:30 A.M.