History of New Jersey

Course Description
This course will examine the 350+ year history of the state of New Jersey. Our goal will be to gain both a better understanding of the critical themes in the development of the state and its communities, as well as the changing approaches of historians in their studies. We will cover New Jersey’s history chronologically, geographically, and topically, giving space to different eras, regions, and communities to craft a deeper understanding of the state’s past. While New Jersey may seem like a narrow topic, the diverse approaches to the study of its past allows for the exploration of such subjects as race and ethnicity, urban and suburban spaces, immigration, and politics, among others.

Learning Goals
Through guided readings of relevant monographs and articles, in-class discussions, book reviews, essays, and teaching exercises, students will gain a deeper understanding of how scholars have studied New Jersey’s history. In the process, they will learn how to engage critically with the arguments and evidence of academic texts, discern and engage with scholarly debates, categorize historical works based on their methodologies, and explore the impact of academic works on teaching at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Students will improve their scholarly writing and research skills through book reviews, essays, and explorations of different research repositories.

Canvas and Online meetings
All course meetings will take place on Canvas. I will post the syllabus and syllabus updates there, and I'll also post course documents and assignments. Be sure that you have created a Net ID; you'll need it to access the site. This course will include both asynchronous online content as well as live meetings via zoom. Students will submit discussion questions to a discussion board on Canvas by noon the day of our meeting and should view their peers submissions by the time we meet in the evening. Students will also submit their book and article reviews during these sessions. Our live meetings will consist of typical graduate seminar discussions of the texts.

Course Texts
Each class meeting we will generally be reading several articles or a book and an additional article. All articles will be posted on Canvas. Almost every course text is available as an e-book through the Rutgers Library or will be made available on Canvas as a .pdf. Each student will also be responsible for reading one “recommended” text. Almost all of these are likewise available through the Rutgers Library website or will be posted on Canvas.
Course Requirements

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Article Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review Presentation</td>
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<td>Book Review Essay</td>
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<td>Major Problems Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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Descriptions of Assignments

**Article Presentation:** Students are responsible for finding, reading, and delivering a brief presentation on an article of their choice. Students should explore the following websites to find their articles:

- *Garden State Legacy:* [https://www.gardenstatelegacy.com/](https://www.gardenstatelegacy.com/)
- *New Jersey History:* [https://njh.libraries.rutgers.edu/index.php/njh](https://njh.libraries.rutgers.edu/index.php/njh)

See also this helpful list of New Jersey history works:

Students are also welcome to use JSTOR, EBSCOhost, or other databases to find articles in other publications. The chosen article should not be one of those already listed on the syllabus. Students are responsible for judging what week their selection best fits, and should inform the professor at least 48-hours in advance of when they plan to present. Students should submit a brief (5-10 minute) recorded presentation to Canvas on the recommended reading and how it relates to that week’s required reading. Presentations should provide a summary of the article, an assessment of the sources used, historiographical engagement, intended audience, and relationship to course texts.

**Book Review and Presentation:** This is a standard written assignment for most graduate classes. Students will read one of the **recommended** readings from the syllabus and write a 2-3 page review of the book. This is not a synopsis. Reviews should present an argument that makes a claim about the book’s success in upholding its thesis, engagement with relevant historiography, and/or use of sources. Students should submit a brief (5-10 minute) recorded presentation to Canvas on the recommended reading and how it relates to that week’s required reading.

Students are permitted to “synergize” their article and book selections, i.e. they may select an article and book on related topics. Students should, however, submit separate presentations on the article and book. Only the book requires a review essay.
**Major Problems Chapter:** Students will participate in a semester-long project in which they curate materials for one chapter of a hypothetical “Major Problems in New Jersey History” textbook. Each student will select a time period/theme in the state’s history and produce the following: 1) a 150-200 word overview of the period and the major issues and developments surrounding it. 2) 150-200 word summary of, followed by a list of, 5-7 primary sources that help illustrate the major issues associated with this period. Students need not reproduce the sources in their entirety. However, students are encouraged to provide at least one of the sources in their entirety. 3) a 150-200 word overview of the historiographical trends in their period, followed by citations for two articles or book chapters that they believe best illustrate these trends. 4) 3-5 review questions that capture what the author hopes for students to take away from the chapter; 5) a list of texts suggested for further reading. Students are permitted to use the book and or article they used for their review presentations for the major problems assignment.

**Attendance and Participation:** All students are expected to attend every class having read the assigned books and articles. Classes will consist primarily of discussions about the texts. It is therefore imperative that students sign in to our meetings on Canvas with notes about the readings and thoughtful questions to prompt meaningful discussions during our time together.

**The Writing Center**
The Writing Center ([http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter)), located in Room 126 of Conklin Hall, offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers-Newark campus. Their tutors work to help students become more independent readers and writers capable of responding well to the demands of writing within the university. Please inform your students that The Writing Center is available to them free of charge and encourage them to take advantage of their services to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills.

**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/academic-integrity-policy/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Academic Integrity Pledge and the Rutgers Honor Pledge on all examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading.

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination assignment.”
Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance
Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University’s Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at run.vpva@rutgers.edu. Learn more about the office here: [http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva](http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva)

Accommodation and Support Statement:
Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).
• **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or [http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/).

• **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: [https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu](https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu).

• **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

• **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

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### Course Schedule

**July 12**

**WELCOME. INTRODUCTION AND PARAMETERS FOR NEW JERSEY HISTORY**


White, et. al., *Scarlet and Black*, Ch. 1


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**July 14**

**ENCOUNTER AND COLONIZATION**


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July 17

SLAVERY


July 21

REVOLUTION

Gregory Walsh “Most Boundless Avarice: Illegal Trade in Revolutionary Essex” (2016)

Campbell Curry-Ledbetter, “Women’s Suffrage in New Jersey 1776-1807: A Political Weapon” (2020)


July 26

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION
Susan B. Hirsch, “Industrialization of the Eight Crafts” (1977)

Paul Johnson, “Art and the Language of Progress in Early Industrial Paterson: Sam Patch at Clinton Bridge” (1988)
David Petriello “A People So Well Fed and Clean” The 1832 Cholera Pandemic in New Jersey” (2020)


July 28

THE GILDED AGE

Peter J. Wosh and Patricia Schall, Murder on the Mountain: Crime, Passion, and Punishment in Gilded Age New Jersey (Rutgers University Press, 2022)

Margaret Marsh, Suburban Lives (Rutgers University Press, 1990) excerpt


August 2

MIGRATION, LABOR, AND ACTIVISM

Nancy C. Carnavale, “Italian American and African American Encounters in the City and in the Suburb” (2014)


August 4

NORTH JERSEY’S URBAN CRISIS
Kevin Mumford, Newark: A History of Race, Rights and Riots in America (New York University Press, 2008)


August 11

SOUTH JERSEY’S URBAN CRISIS
Howard Gillet, Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-Industrial City (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006)

August 13

POST-WAR SUBURBANIZATION


Lizabeth Cohen, “From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America” (1996)


August 18

CONTEMPORARY NEW JERSEY


Francesca Rusello Ammon, “Postindustrialization and the City of Consumption: Attempted Revitalization in Asbury Park, New Jersey” (2015)


***MAJOR PROBLEMS assignment should be submitted by August 18***