

History of the United States I

Fall 2020

Section 90; 21:512:201

(REMOTE)

Professor Singer

Office Hours: by request. I'll also announce "open hours" throughout the semester where students can simply click on the following Webex link and meet with me: <https://rutgers.webex.com/meet/ks778>

Email

katie.singer@rutgers.edu

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the academic field of American History, through the Reconstruction Era. Our focus will be on the major issues and events of this history and culture; both the objective and the subjective will play a part in our interrogation of this subject.

Learning Goals

Our goal is to better understand our country's history through a narrative lens. We will study informed opinions on our past, and their contribution to our present. This course will naturally entail the study of primary sources, as well as the study of the historiography that has influenced the contemporary American public imagination.

Academic Integrity

Included in plagiarism is: cutting and pasting from the web without citing; leaving out in-text citations; submitting substantial portions of your past work for credit without prior approval. Engaging in plagiarism will result in a failing grade. If you are unsure if something needs to be cited - just cite it, ask questions, and then we can discuss it. You can access the web page regarding Rutgers' policy using the following link or on our Blackboard menu. <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

***The department REQUIRES that the following honor pledge is written and signed on examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Grades

Grades will be updated in Grade Center regularly, so you will see what assignments have been recorded and what your grade is at the moment. Please check now and again.

Class Engagement, Discussion Board responses = 50%

Miscellaneous Writing assignments = 10%

Final Presentation = 10%

Final paper (including proposal and rough draft) = 30%

Grading Percentage Scale:

A	(90s)	OUTSTANDING
B+	(85+)	VERY GOOD
B	(80s)	GOOD
C+	(75+)	ALRIGHT
C	(70s)	ACCEPTABLE
D	(60s)	POOR
F	(50s and below)	FAILURE

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is offering remote tutoring via Blackboard Collaborate.

<https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

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. 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.
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <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>.
- **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.

Other Useful Information...

Technology Resources for Students: <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

OIT-Newark Help Desk: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

Latest info on the semester + helpful contact info: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/FALL-2020-UPDATES>

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *If the syllabus reads for example, "Oct. 14, Essay on The Little Rascals due" what does that mean?*

It means that by the end of that day (literally 11:59 pm!) your assignment should appear on *Discussion Board* under the appropriately titled threads - unless directed otherwise.

2. *If I'm unable to post that day am I off the hook?*

Probably not, unless you have a true "excused absence." * **Otherwise, each class day that an assignment is late, the grade will be lowered.** So, if the assignment that was due the 14th received a B but wasn't turned in until the next class, it would receive a C+. (No minus grades at Rutgers, folks)! If extenuating circumstances arise, notify me BEFORE the fact. You'll have the whole week to get an assignment in (usually

due Friday of each week) so try not to let things go until the last minute. *Announcements* on Blackboard are your constant, up-to-date reminders of what is already on the syllabus.

*Rutgers defines “excused absences” as, “illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions”

3. *Am I really REQUIRED to check Blackboard Announcements daily?*

Yup, it’s an integral part of the class. I will post any updates to assignments there, and each Sunday an Announcement for the week will appear. Consider *Announcements* on Blackboard your ongoing assignment sheet: you need to read it in order to do your assignments correctly. I also post information that might be useful for your particular projects when I find it. And of course, there are my witty comments that you would miss if you neglected to check in. It will be our primary means of communication this term!

4. *Do you really care how my writing assignments look?*

I care very much. Papers and other written assignments will be in Chicago style format; Times New Roman font, size 12; double spaced; pages numbered; with type of assignment added to information on left of first page, e.g., “Final Paper.” This means 1-inch margins and no double space between paragraphs! Tell your computer to “single space” paragraphs. See the *Libraries* menu on our Blackboard shell for helpful information; *Course Documents* for formatting guidelines; and feel free to use <http://citationmachine.net/> or other citation tools.

5. *When you say I should email you with any questions, do you really want me to?*

You may email me about ANYTHING. (Of course, you should check *Announcements* first to see whether your question has already been answered in that forum. I read my email regularly and will always respond, no matter what, so that you know I received your email. If you haven’t heard from me within a day or so, then I probably didn’t get your email. Make sure, as well, that you read your emails from me -- and also empty your “trash” now and again. It fills up quickly and rejects important emails!

6. *Hey, speakin’ of email, can’t we just kinda say whatever when writin’ you. You actually have email rules?*

I am afraid so. When you email me, you will use full sentences, *nt txt msg* style. You will not address me as, “Hey” or “Yo,” or ask me to do anything *ASAP*. And you will sign your name to the email. These are common sense rules when communicating via email.

Miscellaneous Important Stuff

Start keeping track right away of everything you read and think; record it in a notebook or computer file. This will be so helpful for your paper, as well as other assignments.

The few times we will meet for discussion online you must have all pertinent materials with you. Make sure you have a Rutgers library account set up, or you will not have access to many of the readings.

If any tech issues with online materials arise, please let me know immediately. (You can often just Google the item and find it elsewhere on the web, by the way).

Annotations. These are notes that will be assigned for posting on Discussion Board, based upon questions I ask. (You’ll always want to take notes as you read and view homework, and then you can organize those notes so you have something to post). You will receive an A for each annotation when you perform this task fully; a C for minimal effort; and an F if you don’t “show up.”

We’ll be using Blackboard this semester -- *Announcements*, *Discussion Board* and *Gradebook* predominantly. Take a little trip around it if it is unfamiliar to you. **I will post an Announcement on Sundays, noting assignments for the week. (This will typically be a reiteration of your syllabus but with more detail). In general, assignments will be due by the end of the day on Fridays. *This goes for workshops, too. I’ll give you instructions for tasks that need to be completed by the end of the week - they are not synchronous.** This will give us rhythm for the semester! I will schedule a few synchronous meetings so we can all talk together. If you will be unable to attend, please let me know prior, if possible.

Required Readings

All reading assignments will be posted on Discussion Board or accessible through our library electronically.

Schedule: Subject to change of course...

Week 1	Starting 9/1 Let's meet on Webex this week! (Optional).	Answer survey questions on Discussion Board (DB) Review syllabus and annotations (<i>Assignments</i>).
Week 2	Starting 9/8	NATIVE AMERICANS Read: "7 Acts of Native Resistance They Don't Teach in School" in <i>Assignments</i> . View, <i>We Hold the Rock</i> (<i>Course Documents</i>); post annotations as per assignment; choose related source from "Additional Sources" (<i>CD</i>), complete Research Exercise (<i>Assignments</i>). Post on DB. See "Removal of Columbus Statue in Washington Park" email.
Week 3	Starting 9/14	1619 Chapter 2, post annotations; "1619 Project" in <i>Assignments</i> . View "Runaway Slave advertisements"
Week 4	Starting 9/21	"COLONIAL" TIMES Read/annotate "Colonial Williamsburg" article. look at NMAAHC website for slave protests, Post responses on DB by Friday.
Week 5	Starting 9/28	REVOLUTIONARY WAR "Presentations" on DB (using q's posted); first listen to "Music and the American Revolution"; view "Historian Explains How New Jersey Was Center of Revolutionary War" (<i>CDs</i>)
Week 6	Starting 10/5 Let's meet on Webex this week! (Optional).	Review essay rubric & final paper guidelines (<i>Assignments</i>). Freewrite posted (in response to prompts) List some <u>primary sources</u> referenced so far.
Week 7	Starting 10/12	MORE WAR; EXPANSION Follow-up form due for "Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826." (<i>Course Documents</i>). Also list 1 source that might be useful as you consider your final paper. Listen to "Editing Thomas Jefferson" podcast. Read: "Biddy Mason: One of LA's first black real estate moguls" share notes on DB.
Week 8	Starting 10/19	Midterm period. Post completed proposal (<i>Assignments</i>) for final paper. Prepare for proposal Workshop*. (<i>Assignments</i>). Review sources in <i>CD</i> ; view: "Railroads in the Civil War" + 2 other videos on the page; & "10 Common Slavery Myths"
Week 9	Starting 10/26	Read "10 Experts on Where the George Floyd Protests Fit into American History" annotations due. Proposals with comments returned to you; watch "The War of 1812 Full Program." (<i>CD</i>)
Week 10	Starting 11/2	Paper draft due. Choose article connected to paper topic, include all <i>CMS</i> info. (See <i>CDs</i>).

		Reverse outline workshop* (based on early paper drafts).
Week 11	Starting 11/9	CIVIL WAR (1859-1865) “Lost Cause Myth” due + annotations. Review annotated bibliography and post by Friday (<i>Assignments</i>). View history.net videos/images “Civil War.”
Week 12	Starting 11/16 Let’s meet on Webex this week! (Optional).	Paper workshop* using “Peer Review Sheet” from <i>Course Documents</i> . Draft must be at least 5 pages with 3 sources (min. 1 primary)
Week 13	Starting 11/23 (Thanksgiving)	RECONSTRUCTION (1864-1896) Complete “Reconstruction & the Fragility of Democracy” assignment. View <i>Voices of the Civil War</i> (2 episodes) on YouTube (CD). Review Final Presentations guidelines (<i>Assignments</i>)
Week 14	Starting 11/30	Follow-up Form on favorite source of the term. (See <i>Course Documents</i>). Papers returned with comments.
Week 15	Starting 12/7	Presentations due.

Final Exam week begins December 15.
Papers will be due the day of the final exam on Discussion Board. (Exam Code A = by arrangement. So please submit by end of Monday, Dec. 21).

Make sure to frequently review “Additional Sources” in *Course Documents on Blackboard*.

NOTES:
