

History of Newark

21:512:203

Spring 2018

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Classroom: ENG 215

Monday: 6:00-9:00pm
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
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Course Description:

This course will examine the more than 350 years of 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%
Hall of Fame Group Project:	30%
Reading Response Papers	10%
Quizzes, Class Participation, and Attendance:	10%

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.

Readings:

All readings are posted on Blackboard.

You are required to read EVERYTHING that is listed on the schedule below BEFORE you attend class.

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

Reading Response Papers:

You must submit **FOUR** typed response papers for different **FOUR** readings on the syllabus.

You can only choose **ONE** reading for a response for any given class.

Response papers are due via email before the start of class on the day reading is assigned.

No responses will be accepted after the date it was assigned.

At least ONE response paper is due BEFORE the mid-term (March 5th).

You CANNOT just hand four in at the end of the semester!

The response should be 1-2 pages.

The response needs to include:

- An original thesis statement based on the reading
- Two direct quotes from the reading used as supporting evidence for your thesis statement

*This means you need to make an argument using the document and argue it using the document.

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. Your course grade will be reduced by a half grade after two unexcused absences and a full grade after three unexcused absences.

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.

Hall of Fame Group Project:

**This is a group project where you will be designing a public history project using primary source documents.*

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

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/>

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

January 22: *Is Perception Really Reality? And a Newark Hall of Fame*

January 29: *Welcome to Milford: Newark's Puritan Beginnings and the Colonial Era*

Readings:

- *New Jersey from Colony to State, 1609-1789*, McCormick, Richard, 17-23
- *Records of Newark*, New Jersey Historical Society, v-x and 1-2
- "Between Hope and Fear: A Legend of the First Lenape Encounter with Europeans"
- "Fraudulent Claims: The Land Riots of 1746," *New York Weekly Post*, 1746
- "The American Crisis," Paine, Thomas, 1776
- *Newark*, Cunningham, John, 70-79

February 5: *Industrial Life in Newark, the 1800s*

Readings:

- "Six Towns along the Morris Canal," *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey*, 1834
- "Apprentices from the Newark," *Daily Advertiser*, 1839
- "Wan Faces and Stunted Minds: Child Labor," *Second Annual Report of the Inspector of Factories and Workshops of the State of New Jersey*, 1884
- "New Jersey Inventors and Their Inventions," *Jersey Journeys*, 2000
- "History of the Cholera" Epidemic as it Appeared in the City of Newark, N.J., from June to Oct. 1849," Clark, J. Henry, *The New York Journal of Medicine*, 1849
- *Newark: The Nation's Unhealthiest City, 1832-1895*, Galishoff, Stuart, (excerpts)

February 12: *The New Kids on the Block: Immigration, Nativism, and Know-Nothings in a Gateway City*

Readings:

- "Germans Assaulted Indiscriminately: Ethnic Violence in Hoboken." 1851
- "The Irish in Newark and New Jersey," Exhibition at the Newark Public Library, 2007
- "WPA Irish Case Histories," New Jersey State Archives 1939

- Excerpts from the Dillingham Commission Reports, 1910-1911
- “These Foreigners Must Be Educated: Americanizing the Immigrant,” 1916
- *Newark’s Little Italy: The Vanished First Ward*, Immerso, Michael, 1999

Extra Credit: Saturday, February 17, 2018

9:30am – 3:30pm

Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series

**“The Space Between the Notes:
The Social Life of Music in Black History”**

February 19: *Beleaguered City: The African-American Experience in Newark*

Readings:

- “Cotton Pickers in Northern Counties” Survey, Pendleton, Helen, 1917
- “The Beleaguered City as Promised Land: Blacks in Newark, 1917-1947,” Price, Clement A. in Lurie, Maxine *A New Jersey Anthology*
- “Strikebreaker or Color-Barrier Breaker?: Race and the Labor Movement,” Ashby, William in *Tales Without Hate*, 1923
- “Glimpse of History: Commencement at Scott College of Beauty Culture,” Mokarry, Adrienne, *The Star-Ledger*

February 26: *An Era of Reform: Newark in the Progressive Era, 1890-1930*

Readings:

- “The Newark Factory Fire,” Hopkins, Mary Alden, *McClure’s Magazine*, 1911
- “Suffragists in Ballot Parade,” *Newark Evening News*, 28 October 1912
- “The Ironbound District,” Price, Willard, 1912
- “Newark Begins Celebration of 250th Birthday,” *New York Times*, 1916
- “Boom, Bust, and Boosterism: Attitudes, Residency and Newark Chamber of Commerce, 1920-1941” Stellhorn, Paul, in Wright, William ed., *Urban New Jersey Since 1870*
- “A John Cotton Dana Library,” *Newark Public Library*, 2006

March 5: Mid-Term Exam

March 12: No Class – Spring Break

March 19: *Bootlegging, Depression and Decline in Newark, the 1902s and 1930s*

Readings:

- *Ol’Rum River*, Reeves, Ira, 1931
- “Forced on Relief Again: A Newark Woman on Welfare,” *WPA Narrative*, 1939
- “Away from the Democratic Ideal: Segregation in the Schools,” Wright, Marion Thompson, 1941

March 26: *What About the Rest of Us?: World War II, White Flight, Suburbia, and the Making of the Second Ghetto*

Readings:

- *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*, Jackson, Kenneth, 238-251, 257-261, and 269-276
- *Raise, Race, Rays, Raze, Essays Since 1965*, “Newark – Before Black Men Conquered,” Baraka, Amiri
- *Goodbye, Columbus*, Roth, Philip, excerpt
- “Look Homeward: From Roth to Baraka to Reiken, Essex County is 127 Square Miles of Literary Inspiration,” Galant, Debra, *New York Times*

April 2: *A Place to Call Home: The Prequel and the Sequel to 1967: Public Housing in Newark*

Readings:

- *Income Distribution*, 1960
- “Planning, Slum Clearance and the Road to Crisis in Newark,” Levitus, David, *The Newark Metro*, 2005
- “Along the New Jersey Divide,” Price, Clement, *New Jersey Reporter*, 1996
- “Tenants’ History of a Project: from a Heaven to a Hell Hole,” *New York Times*, 1974
- “Blowing Up Projects Doesn’t Solve Problems of Housing,” Vergara, Camilo Jose, *New York Times*, 1987
- “A Step to End Newark’s Chapter in High-Rise Public Housing Projects,” Smothers, Ronald, *New York Times*, 1999
- “Constitutional Rights Cannot Wait for Political Consensus: The Supreme Court Addresses the Housing Problem,” 1983
- “Museum Preserving Piece of Crumbling Newark Complex,” DiIunno, Mark, *Star-Ledger*, 2012

April 9: *1967: A Summer of Discontent*

Readings:

- *Ready to Riot*, Wright, Nathan, (excerpts) 1968
- “The Summer of 1967: The Newark Riots”: Excerpts from The Autobiography Leroi Jones, Baraka, Amiri, Report for Action, Rebellion in Newark: Official Violence and Ghetto Response, Hayden, Thomas and Road to Anarchy: Findings of the Riot Study, 1968
- “Sparks & Tinder,” *Time*, 1967
- “Newark Remembers the Summer of 1967, So Should We All,” Price, Clement, *Positive Community*, 2007
- “Five Days of Unrest That Shaped, and Haunted, Newark,” *New York Times*, 2017
- “Blueprint for a New Newark,” *New York Times*, 2017
- “The Newark Riots Began 50 Years Ago Today,” *New York Times*, 2017
- “Fifty Years After The Riots That Shook America, Has Anything Changed?,” *New York Times*, 2017

April 16: *“Wherever American Cities Are Going, Newark Will Get There First,” the 1970s-1990s*

Readings:

- “The White Niggers of Newark,” Shipler, David in *Harper’s Magazine*, 1972
- “The Worst American City,” Louis, Arthur, *Harper’s Magazine*, 1975
- Ken Gibson’s response to “The Worst American City”
- “Newark: Don’t Let It Die,” Winters, Stanley, *New York Times*, 1976
- “The Two Newarks: Boom Amid Bust,” Sullivan, Joseph, *New York Times*, 1991

April 23: *21st Century Newark / Presentations*

Readings:

- “The Battle of Newark, Starring Cory Booker,” Raab, Scott, *Esquire*, 2008
- Cory Booker’s Response to *Esquire*, 2008
- “After Cory Booker, Newark Takes a New Turn,” Greenblatt, Alan, *NPR*, 2014
- “The Departure of the ‘Turnaround Principal,’” Chiles, Nick, *The Atlantic*, 2016
- “Gentrification Fuels Rift Among Newark’s Local Artists,” Adarlo, Sharon, *Aljazeera America*, 2014

- “Newark Should Embrace its Past to Accommodate Future Generations,” Giambusso, David, *Star-Ledger*, 2014
- “In Newark, a New Chapter Unfolding,” Kaysen, Ronda, *New York Times*, 2016
- “Newark’s Toxic Legacy,” Taylor, Andaiye, *BrickCityLive*, 2016
- “A Revival Comes to Newark, but Some Worry It’s ‘Not for Us’,” Rojas, Rick, *New York Times*, 2017

April 30: *Presentations*

May 7: **Final Exam**