**History of Newark**

21:512:203

Spring 2019

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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 to 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 THREE typed response papers for different THREE 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 (February 25th).

You CANNOT just hand three 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.

**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/](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 28: Is Perception Really Reality? And a Newark Hall of Fame

February 4: 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 11: 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
- “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)

Extra Credit: Saturday, February 16, 2019
9:30am – 3:30pm
Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series
February 18: *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

February 25: *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*

March 4: *An Era of Reform: Newark in the Progressive Era, 1890-1930*

Readings:
- “Suffragists in Ballot Parade,” *Newark Evening News*, 28 October 1912
- “The Ironbound District,” Price, Willard, 1912
- “A John Cotton Dana Library,” *Newark Public Library*, 2006

March 11: *Mid-Term Exam*

March 18: *No Class – Spring Break*
March 25: 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

April 1: 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
- 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 8: 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
- “Constitutional Rights Cannot Wait for Political Consensus: The Supreme Court Addresses the Housing Problem,” 1983
April 15: 1967: A Summer of Discontent

Readings:

- *Ready to Riot*, Wright, Nathan, (excerpts) 1968
- “Sparks & Tinder,” *Time*, 1967
- “Fifty Years After The Riots That Shook America, Has Anything Changed?,” *New York Times*, 2017

April 22: “Wherever American Cities Are Going, Newark Will Get There First,” the 1970s-1990s

Readings:

- Ken Gibson’s response to “The Worst American City”

April 29: 21st Century Newark / Presentations

Readings:

- Cory Booker’s Response to *Esquire*, 2008
- “Gentrification Fuels Rift Among Newark’s Local Artists,” Adarlo, Sharon, *Aljazeera America*, 2014


“A Revival Comes to Newark, but Some Worry It’s ‘Not for Us’,” Rojas, Rick, *New York Times*, 2017

**April 29:** Presentations

**May 6:** Presentations

**May 13:** Final Exam