

New Jersey History
512:310 (3 credits) – Fall 2017
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

This is a draft syllabus. Changes may be made before the start of the semester.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:50pm
Scott Hall 202
College Avenue Campus

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Office Hours: TBD
Van Dyck Hall – Room 213C

Course Description

In this course, you will learn about the history of New Jersey from its proprietorial beginnings to the present, with emphasis on those factors that have been most influential in determining the character of the state today.

This course will explore New Jersey’s social, cultural, and economic history as a Mid-Atlantic state sandwiched between the large metropolises of New York City and Philadelphia. Students will learn about the driving forces that shaped the state from the period of the Lenape to the present, exploring and interpreting local historical sites. In particular, course materials will chart the evolution of the City of New Brunswick alongside the growth and change of the colony and then state of New Jersey.

Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to work directly with primary sources from New Jersey’s past, including a young woman’s diary from New Brunswick in 1810, newspaper coverage of the state’s involvement with various war efforts, a young man’s collection of letters from Mercerville, NJ during a medical quarantine in the winter of 1939, oral histories recorded by early twentieth century New Jersey residents, and more.

Class projects will include the development of historical walking tours and markers to interpret and commemorate pieces of the City of New Brunswick and Rutgers University’s history, working with local history agencies as well as the Rutgers Committee on Enslaved and Disenfranchised Populations to commemorate the city’s past as well as the University’s. Students will engage directly with primary source material throughout the course, especially as relates to the history of slavery in New Jersey, as well as to the centennial of World War I, a conflict in which New Jersey was the site of many important events.

Students may take this course as part of the requirements for completing the Certificate in Public History.

Outcomes - History Department Learning Goals Met by this Course

Students who study History at Rutgers University can expect to develop an understanding of the following concepts:

- 1.) How individuals are shaped by their own past and by the past of their society and institutions;
- 2.) The role of human agency in bringing about change in society and institutions;
- 3.) The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, and religion;
- 4.) The role of diversity and difference in shaping human experience;
- 5.) The nature of cause-and-effect relationships in human affairs as they have played out over time and as they continue to operate in the present.

Students who study History at Rutgers University can expect to develop the following practical skills:

- 1.) The ability to read and understand a variety of literary forms, including primary sources such as diplomatic correspondence, journalistic reports, and private papers, as well as secondary sources written in academic prose;
- 2.) The ability to analyze information effectively and to construct cause-and-effect relationships from disparate data sources;
- 3.) The ability to write persuasively and communicate effectively;
- 4.) The ability to work independently and to conduct independent research.

Accomplishing these goals requires hard work and perseverance. Students who make a serious commitment to the discipline should find, however, that in addition to acquiring valuable concepts and skills they will also develop an appreciation for History that will continue after their formal education has been completed.

Required Texts

A New Jersey Anthology, ed. Maxine Lurie, 2010. (Free ebook available via Rutgers Libraries at [this link](#)).

Scarlet and Black: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History, eds Deborah Gray White and Marisa J. Fuentes (2016, Rutgers University Press -- \$15-20)

Additional required readings, podcasts, videos, and other resources, as listed each week on the syllabus, have been uploaded to Sakai, under resources, for you to access.

Assignment and Grading Overview

Additional information about each assignment will be provided throughout the semester.

Primary Source Analysis: (30% of final grade)

Students will select a primary source document related to any aspect of New Jersey History from the University Archives and Special Collections, or another source base used in class, and work through the analysis of this source in an essay, highlighting how it relates to important themes in New Jersey History.

Site Visit Response: (25% of final grade)

The class will select a local historic site and conduct in-class research on this location. The class will then make a visit to investigate how the location's history is presented on site, after which students will write

a response paper discussing the significance of the site, its role in the wider history of New Jersey, and outlining how this site's history is interpreted for visitors.

Individual or Group Project: Historic Walking Tour of New Brunswick: (30% of final grade)

After learning about the history of New Brunswick, students will select sites in the city of particular historical significance, and write a cohesive walking tour which would educate visitors about local history. Students will present their walking tours to the class at the end of the semester.

Attendance, reading responses, in-class activity participation and discussion: (15% of final grade)

Class sessions will be a combination of lecture, activity, and discussion. Students are expected to attend all class meetings (with the exception of excused absences), to complete all assigned readings, and to participate regularly in discussion *and/or written reading responses* and activities related to those readings and lecture materials. In-class writing assignments may also count toward participation points.

Grading Scale

- A: 92-100
- B+: 87-91
- B: 81-86
- C+: 77-80
- C: 70-76
- D: 60-69
- F: 0-59

Attendance & Other Class Policies

Students must check their email and other University digital course tools (including Sakai) regularly in order to stay up to date with class meeting information, syllabus adjustments, assignments, etc.

Attendance and participation are essential in this course. Public history is an active discipline that relies on frequent and open communication, and the structure of the course reflects this. Students are expected to attend every class meeting (with the exception of excused absences) and to participate at each class meeting. Participation involves active attention and contribution: excessive cellphone use or distracting laptop use will not be permitted.

If you have to miss class due to illness, an emergency, or for another excused reason, please use the University absence reporting website: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. The system will notify the instructor of the absence automatically.

Late or make-up work will only be accepted in situations where the student has had a documented, excused absence. All other late assignments will receive a 10% grade deduction for each day the assignment is late.

If a student needs to miss class or adjust their completion of coursework for religious observation, the instructor should be notified in advance and accommodations will be made.

Special Accommodation Requests

Requests for disability or other special accommodation should be made to the instructor within the first two weeks of class. Official procedures for doing so are outlined by the Office of Disability Services here: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services>.

Academic Integrity Policy

Consult, don't plagiarize -- document your research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism.

All students are expected to adhere to the principles of academic integrity laid out by the university here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>. Plagiarism will be addressed to the fullest extent in accordance with University policy.

By participating in the coursework required for this course, you are bound to adhere to the following **honor pledge**: *"On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."*

Course Schedule & Reading Assignments

Please note: This syllabus is subject to change, and may evolve with the direction of the course. If/when changes are made, students will be made aware of adjustments in a timely fashion.

Readings should be done prior to the date listed on the syllabus. Please come to class ready to discuss the listed materials (with the text and your notes in hand).

Week 1 – From Absecon to Weehawken

September 5

September 7

The Lenni Lenape/Delaware

Excerpts from *Mapping New Jersey* (pdf on Sakai)

Week 2 – Colonial New Jersey

September 12

Scarlet and Black, Introduction & Chapter 1

September 14

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 1

Listen to "Elizabeth Carteret," Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage Podcast, *Uncommon History* at [this](#) link

Week 3 – Colonial/Revolutionary New Jersey

September 19 - Tentative Date for Site Visit

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 2

September 21

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 2

Week 4 – Revolutionary New Jersey

September 26

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 3

September 28 – Tentative Due Date for Site Visit Response

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 4

Excerpts from *American Revolution in New Jersey* (pdf on Sakai)

Week 5 – New Jerseyans

October 3

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 8

Listen to “Oliver Cromwell,” Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage Podcast,
Uncommon History at [this](#) link

October 5

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 3

Week 6 – Daily Life in Early National New Jersey

October 10

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 5

Excerpts from *To Read My Heart: The Journal of Rachel Van Dyke, 1810-1811* (pdf on Sakai)

October 12

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 3

Week 7 – Labor & Economics in 18-19th Century New Jersey

October 17

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 4

October 19

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 5

Week 8 – Myth & Reality in Old New Jersey

October 24

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 6

Listen to "Jersey Devil," Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage Podcast,
Uncommon History at [this](#) link

October 26

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 7

Excerpts from *Paterson* by William Carlos Williams (pdf on Sakai)

Week 9 – Division

October 31

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 9

Excerpts from *Jersey Blue* (pdf on Sakai)

November 2 – Tentative Due Date for Primary Source Analysis

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 6

Week 10 - Transitions

November 7

Scarlet and Black, Chapter 7 & Epilogue

November 9

***New Jersey Anthology*, Chapter 10**

Excerpts from *New Brunswick, New Jersey, in the World War, 1917-1918* (pdf on Sakai)

Week 11 – Modern New Jersey

November 14

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 12

Excerpts from *Boardwalk of Dreams* (pdf on Sakai)

November 16

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 13

Excerpts from *Mapping New Jersey* (pdf on Sakai)

Week 12 - Stereotypes

November 21

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 14

Watch: "New Jersey," *Drunk History*, Season 3 - Ep. 302

Thanksgiving Recess November 23-November 26

Week 13 - The Springsteen Years

November 28

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 15

November 30

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 16

Excerpts from *New Brunswick, New Jersey: The Decline and Revitalization of Urban America* (pdf on Sakai)

Week 14 Contemporary New Jersey

December 5 -Tentative Due Date for Historical Walking Tour of New Brunswick

New Jersey Anthology, Chapter 17

December 7

In-class group presentations

Week 15 - 21st Century New Jersey

December 12 - Last day of class

In-class presentations / Future of New Jersey