

Syllabus – Online Course

History of Rutgers University 01:512:285:090 3cr. Spring 2018
Prof. Rudolph Bell (rbell@rutgers.edu) and Paul G. E. Clemens (clemens@rci.rutgers.edu)
bio blurbs: <http://history.rutgers.edu/faculty-directory/96-bell-rudolph-m>
<http://history.rutgers.edu/faculty-directory/128-clemens-paul>
office hours: Bell, Van Dyck 100 (CAC-NB) T/TH 2:00 - 4:00 Clemens, Van Dyck 217B (CAC-NB) T
1:30 - 2:30 and by arrangement.
tel: Bell 848-932-8539 Clemens 848-932-8232

The course presents a historical overview of Rutgers University, including the Camden and Newark campuses as well as New Brunswick/Piscataway and RBHS. It also addresses issues in the history of higher education in a national and international setting over the past three centuries.

The course is entirely online. Each week there will be an online presentation, consisting primarily of interviews with a variety of Rutgers people and assigned readings and/or videos, followed by an online discussion in a small group setting. Students throughout Rutgers are welcome.

Rutgers has an exciting and in some ways unique history. It began as a very small college primarily designed to prepare young men for the ministry in the Dutch Reformed Church. It remained a private school for men and a liberal arts college well into the 20th century, but at the same time, gradually acquired other features (such as an engineering program and a women's college). Moreover, after being designated at the time of the Civil War as a federal land-grant institution under the Morrill Act, Rutgers began to become a more public institution, with programs funded by state and federal tax dollars. At the end of World War II, New Jersey recognized Rutgers as the State University, and in 1956, the university's administration was reorganized to give the State representation on a newly created Board of Governors. At that time, the University also acquired a law school and a liberal arts college in Newark, and half a decade later, an additional law school and small college in Camden. Since the 1950s, Rutgers has become a world-class research university with a student population of over 70,000; professional schools on every campus as well as traditional liberal arts disciplines; numerous centers, bureaus and institutes that conduct research and serve the public; and an athletic program that is part of the Big Ten Conference. With the recent return of its medical school and the creation of RBHS, as well as the greater autonomy of the Camden and Newark campuses, some would say that Rutgers is now moving from being a University to becoming a System.

Our course takes the long-view. We explore the origins of Rutgers College, look at how the school developed in the nineteenth century, and then analyze its recent and rapid transformation into a public institution. We look at its growing distinction as a research institution, the rise of "Big Time" athletics, and the architectural history of the school (with particular emphasis on how and where students lived). We explore the school's cultural contributions in art and music to the University community and the State; we consider the history of student protest in the 1960s, 1970s and beyond. We also explore the institution's tangled relationship with the State of New Jersey, and look at the history of the Camden and Newark campuses.

Course Requirements

1. **Lecture:** Each week we focus on a different aspect of Rutgers' history. A brief introduction to the week's work is followed by several interviews with experts on the chosen topic. These video segments often include illustrative documents and photographic images. In all, the video segments last approximately 80 minutes, about the same length as a 4-wall traditional

RU lecture class. The weekly video segments become available on Sakai beginning at 12:01 a.m. each Tuesday for individual student viewing, at your convenience. They remain available for the rest of the semester but should be viewed, along with related written and visual materials, before discussion begins on the following Friday at 12:01 a.m.

2. Discussion: (30% of grade): Beginning on Friday at 12:01 a.m. each week, we join in cyberspace through the Sakai Forums Tool. The discussion forum remains open until 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, for a total of 96 hours of asynchronous exchange of ideas. No one is expected to stay tuned in for the entire 96-hour stretch, nor to sign in at a specific moment. Rather, students and alums post interventions at their convenience that respond in a meaningful way, initially to the material and questions posed in the "lecture" segment and then engaging interactively with what fellow students are posting. Students are expected to post at least three times, not in consecutive strings, going deeply into the week's materials while they learn from the observations of their fellow students. Student contributions to the discussion are graded each week on a 0 to 10 scale. Each weekly discussion grade is worth 3 points toward course grade and we count only the best 10 of 13 scores, thus allowing for up to three weeks of non-participation (aka absence) without penalty. There are NO additional exceptions allowed to the "best 10 of 13" rule.

Teaching assistants for the discussion forums (and grading of all exams and papers) are:

3. Mid-term Research Project (30% of grade). During Week 8 of the course, instead of the usual format, students complete individual research projects that grow directly out of any one of the course topics. Students work with campus newspapers, available on our Sakai site; interviews available online at the Rutgers Oral History Archives or with guest members of the class; and materials in the University Archives Special Collections or in similar locations in Camden and Newark. The result of student research, submitted online through the Assignment Tool, will be a 2000-word paper based on a span of newspaper sources, campus student yearbooks, or Rutgers faculty newsletters; and/or three or more oral history interviews; or a foray into at least one archival collection.

4. A final take-home essay exam (40% of grade). The take-home exam period will open on Tuesday, May 1 at 12:01 a.m. and end on Monday, May 7 at 11:59 p.m.

5. Grades -Grades on individual assignments are multiplied by the percentages shown in Sakai Gradebook2 (3% for each of best ten discussions; 30% for mid-term research paper; 40% for final exam) and then converted by Sakai Gradebook2 (a merciless but accurate recorder of grades) to RU grades as follows: 90-100=A; 85-89=B+; 80-84=B; 70-79=C+; 60-69=C, 0-59=F. There is no "curve", so you are encouraged to do as well as you possibly can. We have A's for all who earn them. The "soft C" and absence of a D grade are intentional. There will be no exceptions to the grading standard written here.

Unlike some online courses, this one is strictly "on time," with rigid weekly deadlines for the discussion forums and the mid-term papers. Should a Sakai outage occur, we will adjust schedules as necessary and equally for all students but all other access failures (your PC dies, your Internet provider goes down, your dog chews off your ear buds, etc.) will be your responsibility.

6. Readings: there are three books assigned for the course. These are best purchased as a package through Rutgers University Press, which has provided a very substantial discount (57%) to everyone taking the course. All of these books will be used in the course. Your discussion participation, your research paper, and your final examination should all reflect careful consideration of the material in these books:

Paul G. E. Clemens, *Rutgers Since 1945: A History of the State University of New Jersey* (New

Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 2015).

Richard L. McCormick, *Raised at Rutgers: A President's Story* (New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 2014).

Nita Congress (Editor), Junot Diaz (Contributor), Tom Frusciano (Contributor), Barry Qualls (Contributor), Flo Hamrick (Contributor), Elizabeth Warren (Contributor), Marie Logue (Contributor), *Rutgers: A 250th Anniversary Portrait* (Third Millennium Publishing, 2015).

ISBN	list price	book title		special offer price
978-0-8135-6421-0	\$34.95	Clemens / Rutgers since 1945		\$15.03
978-0-8135-6474-6	\$29.95	McCormick / Raised at Rutgers		\$12.88
978-1-908990-06-8	\$70.00	Congress, et. al. / Rutgers: A 250th Anniversary Portrait		\$30.10
	\$134.90	discount:	-57%	\$58.01

To obtain the books at this big discount price, visit Rutgers University Press' website to order the books: <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu>

Choose the first book on the list by typing "Clemens" into the blank Search box, toward the upper left of the home page and click GO.

When the book description pops up, click the cloth edition at \$34.95 and then at the next screen click ADD TO CART.

At the next screen, enter the promo code: 02RHIST15 in the box at the upper left to apply the discount, which will bring the price down to \$15.02.

Click "Continue Shopping" to buy the other three required books, which you do by typing the author name or first word of book title in the blank Search box, just as you did for the Clemens book. The discount will continue to be applied automatically for the added books. Your total will be \$69.17 for all four books.

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If you encounter problems with any of your order, call the distributor's toll-free number 800-848-6224 and give them the 02RHIST18 discount code, plus the book information above.

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Tentative Schedule of Weeks

- 1. Introduction** – Doing Institutional History – Former Pres. Richard L. McCormick and more
- 2. Rutgers, the First Hundred Years** (to its land-grant status under the Morrill Act of 1862) - Ten Objects to Know about Rutgers, with Thomas Frusciano, University Archivist
- 3. Rutgers, from Land-Grant College to State University, 1862-1945** – 19th c. students from Japan, Paul Robeson, Student Tarred and Feathered, and becoming THE State University of New Jersey
- 4. The Challenging History of Developing Medical Education at the State University** – Nobel Prize winner Selman Waksman, renowned scientist Joachim Messing, and RBHS Chancellor Brian Strom
- 5. War Comes to Rutgers: Veterans on Campus, from the Revolutionary War to the War in Afghanistan** – old documents, recent experiences, and historian Jennifer Mittlestadt on the G.I. Bill
- 6. Student Life and Campus Living** – Two Douglass grads recall the 1950s; architectural historian Carla Yanni on RC campus dorm life; and philosopher Peter Klein on the early days at Livingston
- 7. Rutgers at Newark** – former provosts Norman Samuels and Steven Diner talk about the times aptly described by the late historian Clement Price as the “era of colonialism”
- 8. Research Project** – see more below
- 9. Rutgers at Camden** – LEAP founder Dr. Gloria Bonilla Santiago shares the stage with Chancellor Phoebe Haddon
- 10. Athletics at Rutgers, from Participatory Sports to the B1G Ten** – interviews with Coaches C. Vivian Stringer, and Eddie Jordan; ex-coach Kyle Flood, former ADs Julie Hermann and Robert Mulcahy; plus much more
- 11. Academic Freedom: the Nazi Professor, Victims of the McCarthy Era, and a Vietnam Protester**
- 12. Black Students in the 1960s** – BOS takes over Conklin Hall in Newark; the quiet tribulations of three Black men on the RU football team
- 13. Mason Gross School and Beyond: Arts at Rutgers: Dance, Song, Museums, and the Visual Arts**
- 14. RU on Land and Sea: World Class Tomatoes, Clean Tidal Water, and Deep Sea Volcanoes**

Materials for the mid-term project - we will update this preliminary list of materials periodically as your research paper assignment gets nearer. We will also provide advice on a

large number of potential topics, many specific to individual campuses:

Sakai Resource: Targum indexes 1945-Present, and scanned front pages or complete runs of the (Rutgers College) *Targum*, (Livingston) *Medium*, (Douglass) *Caellian*, (Camden) *Gleaner*, and (Newark) *Observer*

Oral History: Rutgers <<http://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/interviews>. Life interviews of Rutgers graduates who have served in the armed forces from World War II to the present as well as interviews with many Rutgers professors and administrators. Note that your research paper requires that you read and analyze at least three of these.

Documents and Images from University Archives/Special Collections - some of the most important reports that describe turning points in Rutgers history will be posted, and you will have an annotated list from which to work

Undergraduate Yearbooks: rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/portals/yearbooks. For those working on topics about student life, these yearbooks, from all the campuses, can be used in conjunction with the newspaper materials.