

New Jersey History from the Civil War to the Present
Syllabus

Winter 2005
2 CEU's

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As its title suggests, this course surveys the sweep of New Jersey history from the era of the Civil War to near the present day. Emphasis is placed on the interactions of political and social/economic history, and on the issue of continuity and discontinuity between present and past. Secondary themes include New Jersey history's fit with the broad patterns of U.S. (and to a lesser degree, world) history, and historians' use of primary sources to interpret the past.

Course Materials

We will use one book and a course packet. The book contains a collection of primary documents, the course packet consists of a selection of articles and book chapters. Copies of the book, both new and used, are available online at all the major internet booksellers. (I have found that this site -- <http://www.fetchbook.info/> -- is particularly useful for finding the best available prices of books.) The course packet will be available for sale on the first night of class. Complete citations for the items in the course packet are provided below in case a student should want to read more of and/or purchase the book from which the assignment comes.

The book for purchase is: Green, Howard L. *Words That Make New Jersey History: A Primary Source Reader*. (Rutgers University Press, 1995)

Schedule

January 5 *Introduction; New Jersey and the Civil War; New Jersey society at war's end..*

What does it mean to study history? Do historians discover or invent? Using primary sources. New Jersey politics during the Civil War; New Jersey society at war's end.

Read: .From the course packet

1. Hayden, Dolores. "Urban Landscape History: The Sense of Place and the Politics of Space." This is chapter 2 (pp. 14-43) of Dolores Hayden, *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History*. (The MIT Press, 1995).
2. Jackson, William J. "Finishing the Work, 1864-1865." This is chapter 6 (pp.194-222) of William J. Jackson, *New Jerseyans in the Civil War: For Union and Liberty*. (Rutgers University Press, 2000).

January 12 *The second industrial revolution; the period of heavy industry; municipal fragmentation*

More than a garden state, New Jersey was a machine shop and petrochemical state. As population grew and new municipalities formed, New Jersey took on the character it would maintain for decades.

Read: From the course packet:

Hahamovitch, Cindy. "A Perfectly Irresistible Change: The Transformation of East Coast Agriculture." This is chapter 1 (pp. 14-37) of Cindy Hahamovitch, *The Fruits of their Labor: Atlantic Coast Farmworkers and the Making of Migrant Poverty, 1870-1945*. (The University of North Carolina Press, 1997)

From *Words that Make New Jersey History*, pp. 154-171

January 19 *The Era of Reform*

Problems associated with the spread of industrial capitalism led many Americans to attempt to reform the system and ameliorate its harshest effects. Woodrow Wilson learned some of his basic political lessons while President of Princeton University.

Read: From the Course Packet:

Simon, Bryant. "Mapping Atlantic City." This is chapter 3 (pp. 63-82) of Bryant Simon, *Boardwalk of Dreams: Atlantic City and the Fate of Urban America*. (Oxford University Press, 2004)

Clark, Claudia. "Watch Alice Glow: The New Jersey Radium Dial Painters." and "A David Fighting the Goliath of Industrialism: Compensation in New Jersey and Connecticut." These are chapters 1 (pp. 12- 38) and 5 (pp. 112-148), respectively, of Claudia Clark, *Radium Girls: Women and Industrial Health Reform, 1910-1935*. (The University of North Carolina Press, 1997).

From *Words that Make New Jersey History*, pp. 172-193

January 26 *World War I and its aftermath; the Emergence of Consumer Society; Another Great Transformation*

Cars, department stores, and household appliances brought comfort and convenience to many. But beneath the surface discontent lurked.

Read: From the Course Packet:

Cowie, Jefferson. "In Defiance of their Master's Voice: Camden, 1929-1950." This is chapter 1 (pp.12 - 40) of Jefferson Cowie, *Capital Moves: RCA's Seventy Year Quest for Cheap Labor*. (Cornell University Press, 1999).

Schaffer, Daniel. "Lessons in Land Use: Radburn and the Regional Planning Association of America." This is from Paul A. Stellhorn (ed.) *Planned and Utopian Experiments: Four New Jersey Towns*. (New Jersey Historical Commission, 1978). It was reprinted in Maxine N. Lurie, *A New Jersey Anthology*. (New Jersey Historical Society, 1994).

From *Words that Make New Jersey History* pp. 194-218

February 2 *The Great Depression and World War II*

Hardship and labor unrest were known in New Jersey as they were nationwide. The Second World War set in motion forces that changed New Jersey irreversibly.

Read: From the Course Packet

Hahamovitch, Cindy. pp 132-160 This represents a section of Chapter 5, "The Sunshine State meets the Garden State: Farm Labor During the Long Depression," and all of Chapter 6, "Wards of the State: Farmworker Unionism and the New Deal," of Cindy Hahamovitch, *The Fruits of their Labor: Atlantic Coast Farmworkers and the Making of Migrant Poverty, 1870-1945*. (The University of North Carolina Press, 1997)

From *Words That Make New Jersey History* pp. 219-244

February 9 *The Rise of the Suburb, the Fall of the City*

A new state Constitution was ratified as the "baby boom" began. You find the connection.

Read: From the course packet

Cohen, Lizabeth. "Residence: Inequality in Mass Suburbia." This is chapter 5 (pp. 194-256) of Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003).

February 16 *From Urban Unrest to the Newest Immigration*

The disorder in Newark and other cities left deep scars. But revised immigration laws opened the door to a potential source of revitalization.

Read: From the Course Packet

Cohen, Lizabeth. "Commerce: Segmenting the Mass" This is chapter 6 (pp. 257-289) of Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003).

From *Words That Make New Jersey History*, pp. 251-272

February 23 *The Era of Republican Ascendancy; Old Economy, New Economy*

Writing the history of the present can be perilous

Read: From the Course Packet

Kirp, David L. "A Suburb at Odds: The Epic Battle of Mount Laurel," This is Chapter 3 (pp. 60-106) of David L. Kirp, *Almost Home: America's Love-Hate Relationship with Community*. (Princeton University Press, 2000).

From *Words That Make New Jersey History*, pp. 278-281

March 2 *Some current New Jersey issues in historical context; Student Presentations*

Read: From the Course Packet

Simon, Bryant. "Disneyland and the Devil's Bargain." This is chapter 8 (pp. 171-193) of Bryant Simon, *Boardwalk of Dreams: Atlantic City and the Fate of Urban America*. (Oxford University Press, 2004)

March 9 *Student Presentations and Summation*

Course Expectations

This course will be taught as informally as its enrollment will allow. Students will be expected to attend class, to have done the reading, and to participate in class discussions. Final evaluations will be based on preparedness, class participation, and on one out-of-class project on some problem or issue in New Jersey history. The projects will be tailored as much as possible to each student's interests. They will require writing a short (approximately five pages) paper, and making a brief oral presentation in class during the last two weeks of the term.

TO A HISTORIAN

YOU who celebrate bygones,
Who have explored the outward, the surfaces of the races, the life that has exhibited itself,
Who have treated of man as the creature of politics, aggregates, rulers and priests,
I, habitan of the Alleghanies, treating of him as he is in himself in his own rights,
Pressing the pulse of the life that has seldom exhibited itself, (the great pride of man in himself,)
Chanter of Personality, outlining what is yet to be,
I project the history of the future.

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, (1891)