

History of Newark

21:512:203

Spring 2019

Laura Troiano
Email: LTroiano11@gmail.com
Phone: 973-353-3905
Room: Hill 102

Monday: 6:00-9:00pm
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Office: 49 Bleeker Street

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.

Semester Schedule

January 28: *Is Perception Really Reality?*

February 4: *Welcome to Milford: Newark's Puritan Beginnings and the Colonial Era*

Readings:

- *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"

- “The American Crisis,” Paine, Thomas, 1776
- Narratives of Newark (in New Jersey), 1917

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
- “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
- Report on Typhoid Fever—Newark, N. J., 1898-99
- Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1850
- School Life of a Newarker of 1856

Additional Reading(s)

- "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 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
- “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

Additional Reading(s)

- The Irish in Newark and New Jersey,” Exhibition at the Newark Public Library, 2007

February 25: *Beleaguered City: The African-American Experience in Newark*

*Noa Visits

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

March 4: *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

Additional Reading(s)

- “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 11: Mid-Term Exam

March 18: No Class – Spring Break

March 25: *Bootlegging, Depression and Decline in Newark, the 1902s and 1930s*

***Noa Visits**

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

- *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 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
- “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 15: *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 22: “Wherever American Cities Are Going, Newark Will Get There First,” the 1970s-90s

***Noa Visits**

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
- Yuppies Invade My House at Dinnertime: A Tale of Brunch, Bombs, and Gentrification in an American City, *New York Times*, 1988
- “The Two Newarks: Boom Amid Bust,” Sullivan, Joseph, *New York Times*, 1991

April 29: 21st Century Newark and 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

May 6: Presentations

May 13: Final Exam