Race, Class and Politics in New York City  
Syllabus  
Spring 2020

Texts to Purchase:  

Learning Outcomes:  
- You will analyze and examine demographic change and the relationship between such change and political and economic conflict.  
- You will evaluate the manner in which immigrant groups were incorporated into economic, social and political life in New York.  
- You will analyze how the categories of race, class and gender have interacted as mechanisms of both exclusion and inclusion.  
- You will conduct primary source research on New York City history.  
- You will employ a comparative framework to analyze New York City history alongside the histories of other American cities.

Course Objectives:  
The objectives of this course are: to gain familiarity with the major themes of New York History since 1898, to learn to think historically, and to learn to think and write critically about arguments that underlie historical interpretation. We will also examine and analyze the systems and structures that have shaped life in New York, while seeking to understand how social groups have pursued change inside and outside of such structures.

Course Requirements:  
Class Attendance and Participation (25% of grade)  
Paper #1, Historical Newspapers Essay, 6 to 8 pages, due March 11 (25% of grade)  
Paper #2, Comparative Urban History Paper, 6 to 8 pages, due April 29 (25% of Grade)  
Take Home Final Exam, 7 to 10 pages (25% of grade)

Schedule of Classes

Wed. 1/22 – Introduction

Mon. 1/27 – The Draft Riots and the Dynamics of Race and Class in New York City.

Wed. 1/29 – Class Formation in Gilded Age New York.


Mon. 2/17 – **Prohibition, Jimmy Walker and New York in the 1920s.**


Mon. 2/24 – Paper Conferences


Wed. 3/4 - **Life and Labor During the Second World War** – Reading: Freeman, chaps. 2-4; Kirsten Fermaglich, “What’s Uncle Sam’s Last Name? Jews and Name Changing in New York City During the World War II Era,” *Journal of American History*, December 2015.

Mon. 3/9 – **Race, Residential Segregation, and Postwar Activism** – Reading: *To Stand and Fight* by Martha Biondi.

Wed. 3/11 – **The Automobile and the Flight from the City.** PAPER 1 DUE

Mon. 3/16 – Spring Break

Wed. 3/18 – Spring Break


Wed. 3/25 – Labor Days - Reading – Freeman, chaps. 6-9


Mon. 4/13 – **Fiscal Crisis and the New York Blackout** – Reading: Freeman, chap. 15.


Mon. 5/4 - Final Class - Review