



# History of Rochester and Western New York



| HIS 179 - CRN 82570 | Spring 2019 | Mon-Wed 1815-1930 | Gavett 202 |

| Instructor: Morris A. Pierce, PhD | x5-4331 | [m.pierce@rochester.edu](mailto:m.pierce@rochester.edu) | Office hours Mon 1630-1730 RRL 401 |

## Required Coursework and Grading

- **Three research papers are required (25 points each)** – Each to be four to six double-spaced pages (not counting images, notes, etc.), longer papers are fine. Images, maps, etc., are encouraged. E-mailed PDF files are preferred, but Word is ok. Paper copies are also acceptable, double-sided printing preferred. *Papers are due by the end of class on the date due, late papers will lose points.* Each paper will cover a topic of your choice from each of the three periods, but some topics may overlap periods which is fine. You must use and cite at least three sources (not counting Wikipedia), one of which must be a primary source, and include a list of references. Use any common citation form. Paper topics can be anything mentioned in class, on the syllabus, or the reference list, but basically anything to do with Rochester and/or Western New York will be fine.
  - **Paper #1: Topic before 1900** – Due March 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Paper #2: Topic after 1900** – Due April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Paper #4: Rochester’s past, present, and future** – Due at midnight on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Any topic of your choosing about Rochester and/or Western New York.
- **Paper #3: Historical or other site visit (15 points)** – Due on May 1<sup>st</sup> (last class meeting)
  - Visit a historical site, museum, or other location in Rochester or Western New York, research it and write three to four double-spaced pages about it and how well you think it delivers its message to the public.
- **Up to ten additional points will be awarded for class participation, extra work, etc. (10 points)** Note: Class attendance is not required, but is encouraged and appreciated. As a courtesy let me know if you won’t be attending a class meeting. You remain responsible for material presented during each lecture.
- Assignment grades will be posted on Blackboard. The course grade will be based on the total number of points earned in the course, with letter grades assigned according to the following scale:

94-100	A	85-87	B	78-80	C	70-72	D
91-93	A-	82-84	B-	75-77	C-	68-69	D-
88-90	B+	80-81	C+	73-74	D+	0-67	E

## Texts and Resources

A comprehensive list of references is posted on Blackboard, and lecture slides and other material will be added.

There is no assigned course textbook, but the following books are on reserve at the RRL Q&I desk:

*Rochester, the Water-Power City, 1812-1854*, by Blake McKelvey (1945) Full-text also available on archive.org

*Rochester, the Flower City, 1855-1890*, by Blake McKelvey (1949)

*Rochester, the Quest for Quality, 1890-1925*, by Blake McKelvey (1956)

*Rochester, the Emerging Metropolis, 1925-1961*, by Blake McKelvey (1961)

*Rochester on the Genesee: The Growth of a City*, second edition, by Blake McKelvey (1993)

*Smugtown, U.S.A.*, by Curt Gerling (1957)

*A Shopkeeper’s Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815-1837*, by Paul E. Johnson (1978)

*The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*, by Whitney R. Cross (1950)

*Crucible of the Millennium: The Burned-Over District of New York in the 1840s*, by Michael Barkun (1986)

*The Remaking of a City: Rochester, New York 1964-1984* by Lou Buttino & Mark Hare

**Sources** - Anything published in the U.S. before 1924 is in the public domain and many books, etc. can be found on Google Books, archive.org, and HathiTrust.org. The Rochester Public Library has placed many newer books on line. The American Council of Learned Societies has placed more than 5,000 books on line, links to many are included on the reference list, but there might be others of interest depending your topics. (Only accessible on the UR network) Jstor.org has many articles and a few books on line, again links are included for many on the reference list. (Only accessible on the UR network)

Links to several local and regional newspapers are included on the reference list.

**Primary Sources** are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic from people who had a direct connection with it.

Primary sources can include: Texts of laws and other original documents; Newspaper reports by reporters who witnessed an event or who quote people who did; Speeches, diaries, letters and interviews - what the people involved said or wrote; Datasets, survey data, such as census or economic statistics; Photographs, video, or audio that capture an event. E-mail me if you have a question about a particular source, as this can get fuzzy sometimes.

**Class Schedule** (subject to change)

1	16 January	Introduction, overview and course objectives. The Physical Geography of western New York – lakes, rivers, water, forests, mountains and swamps.
2	23 January	Indigenous peoples of western New York.
3	28 January	The conflict between France and England in western New York; The Proclamation Line of 1763; The American Revolution, the Sullivan Expedition and the Treaty of Paris
4	30 January	Becoming a State – Sovereignty, ownership, and settlement.
5	4 February	The Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812 and the Problem of Transportation – Turnpikes, Rivers and Canals.
6	6 February	Settlement and growth of Rochester; Agriculture and flour milling
7	11 February	The Erie Canal and the rise of Western New York
8	13 February	Poverty, Poor laws and Debtors' Prisons
9	18 February	The Burned-Over District
10	20 February	Horses and Railroads
11	25 February	Temperance and Women's Rights – The Rochester and Seneca Falls Conventions of 1848; Suffrage and New York's voting laws
12	27 February	Rochester and the telegraph
13	4 March	Slavery in New York, The Fugitive Slave Act, Abolitionists; the Underground Railroad and John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry
14	6 March	<b>Paper #1 due</b> The Civil War
	<b>11 &amp; 13 March</b>	<b>Spring Break – No class</b>
15	18 March	A city of immigrants
16	20 March	Public, parochial, and private schools.
17	25 March	Business, Industry, and Labor
18	27 March	The struggle against monopolies.
19	1 April	Higher Education
20	3 April	Disease, Medicine, and Public Health; The Flexner Report and a new Medical School
21	8 April	Rapid transit and new suburbs
22	10 April	Electricity, gas, and telephones; Radio and television
23	15 April	World Wars and the Great Depression
24	17 April	The Great Migration (1910 to 1970) and the local response
25	22 April	Highways and urban renewal
26	24 April	<b>Paper #2 due</b> Smugtown, U.S.A.
27	29 April	The 1964 Riots and their aftermath
28	1 May	<b>Paper #3 due</b> The decline of industry and rise of a new economy
	12 May	<b>Paper #4 due at Midnight on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup></b>



**Credit hours:** In accordance with the College credit hour policy, which awards 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 2 periods of 75 minutes each week, students are expected to devote at least 90 minutes each week on course readings or other activities relating to the History of Rochester and Western New York, working alone or in groups.

**Academic honesty:** All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty)