

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Earth Sciences

Geography 431
Dr. Bill Wyckoff
Spring 2017
Class: meets in TRAP 225
Meets: T/Th 3:05-4:20PM

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Historical Geography of North America

The course introduces students to the field of historical geography and emphasizes its contribution to understanding North America's past. The objectives of the course are 1) to offer a broad survey of North America's past human geographies, emphasizing the period between 1600 and the present and 2) to explore the more general questions, methods, and sources used within the field of historical geography.

Course Requirements

1. Attend class at the scheduled meeting time.
2. Complete all readings by the class period shown in the outline.
3. Be prepared to discuss the readings in class.
4. Complete two midterms and one cumulative final exam.
5. Complete one group class project (in teams)
6. Present a brief in-class oral report of an assigned research article/book chapter.

Grading

Grading will be based on the following 500-point system:

1. Two midterms and a comprehensive final will be given, 100/100/150 points
2. Team project. One team research project will be assigned, worth 50 points.
3. One short oral presentation that summarizes an article/book chapter in class, worth 50 points.
4. Class attendance and participation = 50 points

Learning Outcomes

After the course is completed, students will 1) learn many of the basic questions addressed within the subfield of historical geography; 2) have a firm grasp of sources and methods for research in this subfield, including doing archival and field work; 3) have an understanding of the historic geographic evolution of North America from colonial to modern times. This understanding will include emphases in: a) evolving

spatial patterns of human activities; b) changing landscapes and environments; and c) the creation of new social geographies.

Oral Presentations

Each student will be assigned to summarize one research article/book chapters in class. The class is responsible for the material presented in the summaries. The summaries should be 8-12 minutes in length (practice ahead of time!). This does not mean 5 or 20 minutes! Each presentation should 1) clearly *identify the key question* addressed in the research; 2) identify *the sources and methodologies* used in the research; and 3) *summarize the findings* or conclusions of the research

Required Books/Readings

All students will need to purchase and/or obtain copies of:

McIlwraith and Muller (MM), NORTH AMERICA (2001)
Hayden, BUILDING SUBURBIA (2003)
Harris, THE RELUCTANT LAND (2008)

In addition, reserve readings will be assigned and put online through the Renne Library electronic reserve system (e-reserve)

Some items will be available on JOURNAL LIST (ie electronic access of journal articles (e-journal)) or on D2L (D2L)

Note that there is no “lab” for this course, but there IS a sizable amount of reading. To succeed, you must do the reading. For each assigned class reading, make sure you are prepared to answer two key questions: 1) What are the author's main points/themes/arguments in the reading? 2) How does the reading fit into the day's discussion topic? ALWAYS COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS EACH READING and TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS!

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignments and Topics</u>
Th Jan.12	Course Introduction/Organization
T Jan. 17	Major Themes and Questions in Historical Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 3-21; 465-70 • Wyckoff: Understanding Western Places: The Historical Geographer's View (e-reserve)
Th Jan. 19	Native American Setting; Initial Contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 25-30 • Harris: 1-19

- Myers and Dolittle, “The New Narrative on Native Landscape Transformations” (D2L)

T	Jan. 24	Initial European Exploration and Settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 30-46 • Harris: 20-51
Th	Jan. 26	Colonial America: Eastern Canada and New England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * MM, 89-102; 106-110 Harris, 52-91 *Joseph Wood, “Colonial Encounter” (e-reserve)
T	Jan. 31	Colonial America: Mid-Atlantic and the Chesapeake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 102-106; 111-116 • S. Hornsby, “Tobacco Plantations” (e-reserve)
Th	Feb. 2	Colonial America: Southern Hearths and Backcountry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.W. Meinig, “Carolina and the Carolinas” (e-reserve) • W. Hofstra: “The Colonial Road” (e-reserve) <p>Presentation: Judith Carney, “African Antecedents of Uncle Ben in U.S. Rice History”</p>
T	Feb. 7	Pre-1800 West: Conflicting Empires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 47—63 • Calloway “The Mississippi and Beyond” (e-reserve) • Calloway, “The Coming of the Centaurs”(e-reserve)
Th	Feb. 9	Overview of the Colonial World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 119-38 • Harris, 117-36 • M. Bruckner “The Continent Speaks” (e-reserve) <p>Presentation: Stephen Hornsby, “British American Towns”</p>
T	Feb. 14	MIDTERM 1 TODAY!
Th	Feb. 16	America Expands I: Geographies of Settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 143-64 • D.W. Meinig, “Migration Westward” (e-reserve) <p>Presentation: Imlay and Carter: “Drainage on the Grand Prairie”</p>

T	Feb. 21	America Expands II: Political Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Silvern, “Reordering Geog. of Indian Country” (D2L) • Meinig, “Continentalism” (e-reserve)
Th	Feb. 23	America Expands III: Geographies of Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K.Raitz, “Making Connections” (e-reserve) • D.W. Meinig, “Pathways” (e-reserve)
T	Feb. 28	America Expands III: Geographies of Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * D.W.Meinig, “Railroads: Contest for Territory” (e-reserve)
Th	Mar. 2	America Expands IV: Peopling North America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM, 285-298 • Ostergren, “Community Transplanted” (e reserve)
T	Mar. 7	America Expands V: Economic Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * MM 165-206 * MM 307-343
Th	Mar. 9	Midterm #2 TODAY!
T	Mar. 14	SPRING BREAK!
Th	Mar. 16	SPRING BREAK!
T	Mar. 21	No class: Reading assignment
Th	Mar. 23	America Expands VI: Inside the City (Part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM 297-304; 343-355 • Hayden, 3-70 <p>Presentation: Mona Domosh, “Invented Cities”</p>
T	Mar. 28	Inside the City (Part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hayden 71-127 <p>Discuss Bozeman Project in class: Kim Scott, MSU Library Archives</p>

- Th Mar. 30 British Canada Evolves
- Harris 231-376
- Presentation:** J.I. Little, “Canadian Pastoral: Promotional Images of British Colonization in Lower Canada’s Eastern Townships, 1830s”
- T Apr. 4 AAG MEETINGS: No class: work on group projects
- Th Apr. 6 AAG MEETINGS: No class: work on group projects
- T Apr. 11 Settling the North American West I
- * MM, 261-283
 - * D. W. Meinig, “American Wests,” ANNALS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS 62 (1972): 159-84.(e journal)
- Presentation:** Otterstrom and Davis, “Uneven Landscape of California’s Historical Landmarks”
- Th April 13 Settling the North American West II
- *C. Lukinbeal, et al., “Mexican urban colonias,” GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW 100 (2010): 12-34 (e journal).
- Presentation:** Arreola and Hartwell, “Phoenix Population Origins, 1870-1900”
- Presentation:** Wyckoff, “Cartography and Capitalism: George Clason and the Mapping of Western American Development”
- T April 18 Settling the North American West III
- *Harris, 416-47
- Presentation:** Thistle: “A Vast Inland Empire and the Last Great West” (interior western Canada)
- Th April 20 Occupying the Plains and Prairies
- MM, 237-60
 - MM, 409-21

T April 25 New National Trends
* MM, 381-408
* Reserve: Meinig, "Some Reconfigurations"
* Reserve: Conzen, "Developing Large-scale Consumer Landscapes"

Presentation: Wilson, "Landscapes of Promise and Betrayal"

Th April 27 The Modern City and Suburb
• MM, 423-44
• Hayden, 128-248

Presentation: Patrick Vitale: "Learning to be Suburban: The Production of Community in Westwood Hills, PA, 1952-1958"

PROJECTS DUE TODAY

**W MAY 3 12:00-1:50....COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM! (note the date).
All students must take the final exam at this time...so please plan accordingly...thanks!**