

HSTA-468
History of Yellowstone National Park
Spring 2014: Thursdays, 3:10 – 5:40, Wilson 1134

Dr. Diane Smith
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Office Hours:
Thursday afternoons by appointment

This reading-intensive and student-centered course introduces the social and environmental history of Yellowstone National Park. Together we will look at the Park from a variety of perspectives, and learn how to critically evaluate the history of national parks in general and Yellowstone in particular. By discussing how historians, scientists, and others have interpreted the Park over time, the course will ask hard questions not only about the history of Yellowstone, but about the future of national parks as well.

Course Requirements and Grading:

All course participants will read and be prepared to discuss key points from all the assigned readings (20% of your grade). In addition, everyone will be responsible for co-leading discussions of two books (20% each or 40% of your grade). Because we only meet once a week to discuss a specific book, regular attendance and preparation for the class are required.

You will write critical reviews of two of the assigned readings of your choice (500 words each), due *the day the book is discussed* (10% each or 20% of your grade). For example, if you choose to review Stephen Pyne's book, that review will be due before class on January 15. (If you choose to review Jacoby, please review the entire book.) Short quizzes will be distributed over the course of the semester before discussions begin (20% of your grade).

Class Schedule and Required Reading:

January 9: Introduction to Yellowstone and overview of class; discussion assignments

January 16: Pyne, Stephen J., *How the Canyon Became Grand*

January 23: Mason, Kathy S., *Natural Museums: U.S. National Parks, 1872-1916*

January 30: Black, George, *Empire of Shadows*

February 6: Schullery, Paul, *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park*

February 13: Runte, Alfred, *National Parks: The American Experience* (4th ed.)

February 20: Nabokov, Peter, *Restoring a Presence: American Indians and Yellowstone National Park*

February 27: Jacoby, Karl, *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation* [intro, Yellowstone section, and conclusion only]

March 6: Judith L. Meyer, *The Spirit of Yellowstone: The Cultural Evolution of a National Park*

FIRST BOOK REVIEW DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 6

March 13: Spring Break - no class

March 20: Pritchard, James A. *Preserving Yellowstone's Natural Conditions: Science and the Perception of Nature*

March 27: Biel, Alice Wondrak, *Do (Not) Feed the Bears: A Fitful History of Wildlife and Tourists in Yellowstone*

April 3: Barker, Rocky, *Scorched Earth: How the Fires of Yellowstone Changed America*

April 10: Smith, Douglas, *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone (REV ED)*

April 17: Smith, Diane, *Letters from Yellowstone*

SECOND BOOK REVIEW DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 17

April 24: Ken Burns' Yellowstone, discussion, and wrap up