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HSTA 255.02: Montana History

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HSTA 255: Montana

Professor Jeff Wiltse

LA 251 / jeffrey.wiltse@umontana.edu

Office hours will be conducted through Zoom on Mondays, 3:00-4:00 pm; Wednesdays, 1:00-1:45 pm; and by appointment. My faculty webpage (<http://hs.umt.edu/history/people/default.php?s=Wiltse>) has links to access the office hour meetings.

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course surveys Montana history from the time of first inhabitants (13,500 years ago) to the present. Lectures provide an outline of Montana history, focusing on major social, political, and economic developments. Course readings provide interesting and revealing accounts of several significant topics in Montana history. The primary learning objectives for this course are:

- Develop a broad understanding of Montana history from early human settlement to the present
- Develop an in-depth understanding of several key aspects of Montana history: Native American cultures and contacts between Montana Indians and non-Indians, mining and industrial development, homesteading and rural life, and the state's environment and landscape
- Develop key intellectual skills: the ability to read critically, think analytically, and write clearly

Readings

Copies of the following books are available at the bookstore. They are required texts.

James Welch, *Fools Crow*

Michael Punke, *Fire and Brimstone: The North Butte Mining Disaster of 1917*

Nedra Sterry, *When the Meadowlark Sings: The Story of a Montana Family*

You will also be responsible for reading the following short "Document Readings" that are available as PDF files on the course Moodle page.

Fur Trade Documents (William Ferris, "Life in the Rocky Mountains," James Kipp, "Establishment of Fort Piegan," & "Fort Benton Journals," in Kittredge & Smith, eds., *Last Best Place*, 170-177, 216-219.)

Pearl Price Robertson, "Homestead Days in Montana," in Kittredge & Smith, eds., *Last Best Place*, 532-543.

Climate Change in Montana Articles from the *Bozeman Chronicle*

Assignments and Grading

The grading for this course will be based on three in-class exams that test your mastery of course content, your analysis of course readings, and your ability to write clearly.

Exam #1: Monday, September 21, and Wednesday, September 23

Exam #2: Monday, October 19, and Wednesday, October 21

Exam #3: Monday, November 23, 8:00 am to 10:00 am

*Make-up exams will only be given in the cases of documented medical emergencies, documented family emergencies, and for participation in required UM activities.

Your final grade will be the weighted average of your individual grades for the exams and paper. Final letter grades are figured at 90%=A, 80%=B, 70%=C, 60%=D. The dividing line for +s is _7% and _3% for -s. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Exam #1:	30 percent
Exam #2:	30 percent
Exam #3:	40 percent

Academic Honesty

All students are required to practice academic honesty. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. It is unfair to fellow students, undermines the credibility of UM degrees, and deprives the offending student of an education. The work you submit must be your own. Cheating will result in a failing grade for the course.

DSS Accommodation and Drop Deadlines

If you have a documented learning disability, please contact me so we can ensure you have suitable accommodation. The last day to drop this course using Cyberbear is September 9. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is October 21. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. November 18 is the last day to drop this course.

Course Schedule

Unit One: First Peoples and Pioneer Period

Wed, Aug. 19: Course Introduction

Start reading: Welch, *Fools Crow*

Fri, Aug. 21: Prehistoric Montana I: First People

Mon, Aug. 24: Prehistoric Montana II: Cultural Innovation

Wed, Aug. 26: Montana Indians during the Eighteenth Century

Fri, Aug. 28: Lewis and Clark Expedition

Mon, Aug. 31: Fur Trade

Read: Fur Trade Documents

- Wed. Sep. 2: Montana Indians during the Fur Trade Era
- Fri., Sep. 4: Treaties of the 1850s
- Mon, Sep. 7: No class (Labor Day)
- Wed, Sep. 9: Montana Gold Rush
- Fri, Sep. 11: Gold Rush Consequences
- Mon, Sep. 14: Dispossessing Montana Indians
- Wed, Sep. 16: Cattle Kingdom
- Fri. Sep. 18: Discuss *Fools Crow*
- Mon. Sep. 21: Exam 1A on *Fools Crow* and Fur Trade Documents
- Wed, Sep. 23: Exam 1B on Unit One lectures

Unit Two: Industrial Montana

- Fri, Sep. 25: Long Road to Statehood
- Start reading:** Punke, *Fire and Brimstone*
- Mon, Sep. 28: Industrialization of Mining
- Wed, Sep. 30: Immigrants and Cities
- Fri, Oct. 2: Clark-Daly Feud
- Mon, Oct. 5: War of the Copper Kings
- Wed, Oct. 7: Reforming Montana Politics
- Fri, Oct. 9: Dawes Act and Indian Education
- Mon, Oct. 12: Homestead Boom
- Read:** Robertson, "Homestead Days in Montana"
- Wed, Oct. 14: Montana and World War I
- Fri, Oct. 16: Discuss *Fire and Brimstone*

Mon, Oct. 19: Exam 2A on *Fire and Brimstone* and “Homestead Days in Montana”

Wed, Oct. 21: Exam 2B on Unit 2 Lectures

Unit Three: Modern Montana

Fri, Oct. 23: 1920s Agricultural Depression

Start reading: Sterry, *When the Meadowlark Sings*

Mon, Oct. 26: Great Depression in Montana

Wed, Oct. 28: New Deal

Fri, Oct. 30: Indian New Deal

Mon, Nov. 2: Montana During World War II and Discuss *When the Meadowlark Sings*

Wed, Nov. 4: Postwar Stagnation

Fri, Nov. 6: Montana Indians in Modern Times

Mon, Nov. 9: 1970s Politics and Environmentalism

Wed, Nov. 11: No class (Veterans Day)

Fri, Nov. 13: Economic Boom and Bust

Mon, Nov. 16: Contemporary Montana

Wed, Nov. 18: Climate Change and Montana’s Future

Read: Climate Change in Montana Articles

Final Exam: Tuesday, November 24, 1:10-3:10 pm