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Fall 9-1-2021

HSTA 255.01: Montana History

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HSTA 255: Montana

Professor Jeff Wiltse

LA 258 / jeffrey.wiltse@umontana.edu

Office hours: M: 3-4, W: 10-11; I am also available for Zoom meetings by appointment.

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 earliest 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 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 several additional 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.

Russell Rowland, *Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey*, 3-7, 34-86, 155-184, 373-403.

Assignments and Grading

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

Exam #1: Wednesday, October 6

Exam #2: Wednesday, November 3 and Friday, November 5

Meadowlark Sings Paper Due Wednesday, December 1

Exam #3: Friday, December 17, 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:	30 percent
Take-home exam:	10 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.

ODE 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 without approval is Sep. 20. From Sep. 21 to Nov. 1, drops require instructor and advisor approval. From Nov. 2 to Dec. 10, drops also require the Dean's approval and a "WP" or "WF" will appear on your transcript. Dec. 10 is the last day to drop this course.

Course Schedule

Unit One: First Peoples and Pioneer Period

Mon, Aug. 30: Course Introduction

Start reading: Welch, *Fools Crow*

Wed, Sep. 1: No class (I have professional obligations in Philadelphia this day)

Fri, Sep. 3: Prehistoric Montana I: First People

Mon, Sep. 6: No class (Labor Day)

Wed, Sep. 8: Prehistoric Montana II: Cultural Innovation

Fri, Sep. 10: Prehistoric Montana III: Culture Groups and the Salish Seasonal Round

Mon, Sep. 13: Montana Indians during the Eighteenth Century

- Wed, Sep. 15: Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Fri, Sep. 17: Fur Trade
- Read:** Fur Trade Documents
- Mon, Sep. 20: Montana Indians during the Fur Trade Era
- Wed, Sep. 22: Treaties of the 1850s
- Fri, Sep. 24: Montana Gold Rush
- Mon, Sep. 27: Gold Rush Consequences
- Wed, Sep. 29: Dispossessing Montana Indians
- Fri, Oct. 1: Cattle Kingdom
- Mon, Oct. 4: Discuss *Fools Crow*
- Wed, Oct. 6: Unit 1 Exam

Unit Two: Industrial Montana

- Fri, Oct. 8: Long Road to Statehood
- Start reading:** Punke, *Fire and Brimstone*
- Mon, Oct. 11: Industrialization of Mining
- Wed, Oct. 13: Immigrants and Cities
- Fri, Oct. 15: Smoke Wars
- Mon Oct. 18: Clark-Daly Feud
- Wed, Oct. 20: War of the Copper Kings
- Fri, Oct. 22: Reforming Montana Politics
- Mon, Oct. 25: Dawes Act and Indian Education
- Wed, Oct. 27: Homestead Boom
- Read:** Robertson, "Homestead Days in Montana"

- Fri, Oct. 29: Montana and World War I
- Mon, Nov. 1: Discuss *Fire and Brimstone*
- Wed, Nov. 3: Unit 2 Exam
- Fri, Nov. 5: Unit 2 Exam

Unit Three: Modern Montana

- Mon, Nov. 8: 1920s Agricultural Depression
- Start reading:** Sterry, *When the Meadowlark Sings*
- Wed, Nov. 10: Great Depression in Montana
- Fri, Nov. 12: New Deal in Montana
- Mon, Nov. 15: Indian New Deal
- Wed, Nov. 17: Montana During World War II
- Fri, Nov. 19: Postwar Stagnation
- Mon, Nov. 22: Discuss *When the Meadowlark Sings*
- Wed, Nov. 24: No class (Thanksgiving Break)
- Fri, Nov. 26: No class (Thanksgiving Break)
- Mon. Nov. 29: Montana Indians in Modern Times
- Wed, Dec. 1: 1970s Politics and Environmentalism ***Meadowlark Sings Paper Due***
- Fri, Dec. 3: Economic Boom and Bust
- Mon, Dec. 6: Contemporary Montana
- Wed, Dec. 8: Climate Change and Montana's Future
- Fri, Dec. 10: Course Conclusion and Discuss Rowland, *Fifty-Six Counties*
- Final Exam: Friday, December 17, 8:00 to 10:00 am