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HSTA 255.01: Montana History

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HSTA 255: Montana

Professor Jeff Wiltse

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Office hours: M: 1:30-3:00, F: 10:00-11:00

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course surveys Montana history from the time of first inhabitants 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 Plains Indian life during the nineteenth century, mining and industrialization, rural life, and the state's changing landscape. The primary learning objectives for this course are:

- Develop a broad understanding of Montana history from the earliest human settlement to the present
- Develop an in-depth understanding of several critical aspects of Montana history: Indian 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 basic intellectual skills—especially your ability to read critically, think analytically, and write clearly
- Learn to enjoy using your mind

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*

William Wyckoff, *On the Road Again: Montana's Changing Landscape*

Assignments and Grading

The grading for this course will be based on in-class exams that consist of short answer/IDs and essay questions. The exams will test your mastery of the content covered in lectures, your analysis of the assigned texts, and your ability to write clear and convincing essays.

Exam #1: Wednesday, September 24, and Friday, September 26

Exam #2: Friday, October 24, and Monday, October 27

Exam #3: Friday, November 14

Exam #4: Monday, December 8, 8:00 am

*Make-up exams will only be given in the cases of documented medical emergencies (as distinguished from having a cold), documented family emergencies, and for participation in required UM activities.

All students must take this course for a grade. Your final grade will be the weighted average of your individual grades for the exams. 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	10 percent
Exam #4	30 percent

Academic Honesty

Cheating will not be tolerated. It is unfair to fellow students, undermines the credibility of UM degrees, and deprives the offending student of the education for which someone is paying. The work you submit in this course must be your own. Cheating will result in a failing grade for the course.

Drop Deadlines

The last day to drop this course using Cyberbear is September 15. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is October 27. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. December 5 is the last day to drop by petition.

DSS Accommodation

If you have a documented learning disability, please contact me so we can ensure you have suitable accommodation.

Course Schedule

Mon, Aug. 25: Course Introduction

Unit One: First Peoples and Pioneer Period (Read Welch, *Fools Crow*)

Wed, Aug. 27: First Peoples

Fri, Aug. 29: Montana Indian Tribes and Cultures

Mon, Sep. 1: No Class (Labor Day)

Wed, Sep. 3: Montana Indians during the “Century of Transformation”

Fri, Sep. 5: Lewis and Clark Expedition

Mon. Sep. 8: Fur Trade

Wed., Sep. 10: Montana Indians during the Fur Trade Era

Fri, Sep. 12: Treaties of the 1850s

Mon. Sep. 15: The Montana Gold Rush

Wed. Sep. 17: Dispossessing Montana Indians

- Fri, Sep. 19: Cattle Kingdom
 Mon. Sep. 22: Discuss *Fools Crow*
 Wed. Sep. 24: Exam 1A on *Fools Crow*
 Fri, Sep. 26: Exam 1B on Unit One lectures

Unit Two: Industrial Montana (Read: Punke, *Fire and Brimstone*)

- Mon, Sep. 29: Long Road to Statehood
 Wed, Oct. 1: Industrialization of Mining
 Fri, Oct. 3: Immigrants and Cities
 Mon, Oct. 6: Smoke Wars
 Wed, Oct. 8: Clark-Daly Feud
 Fri, Oct. 10: War of the Copper Kings
 Mon, Oct. 13: Reforming Montana Politics
 Wed, Oct. 15: Dawes Act and Indian Education
 Fri, Oct. 17: Homestead Boom
 Mon, Oct. 20: Montana and World War I
 Wed, Oct. 22: Discuss *Fire and Brimstone*
 Fri, Oct. 24: Exam 2A on *Fire and Brimstone*
 Mon, Oct. 27: Exam 2B on Unit 2 Lectures

Unit Three: Modern Montana (Read Sterry, *Meadowlark Sings* and Wychoff, *On the Road*)

- Wed, Oct. 29: Agricultural Depression of the 1920s
 Fri, Oct. 31: 1920s Montana
 Mon, Nov. 3: Great Depression in Montana
 Wed, Nov. 5: New Deal in Montana
 Fri, Nov. 7: Indian New Deal

- Mon, Nov. 10: Montana during World War II
- Wed, Nov. 12: Discuss *When the Meadowlark Sings*
- Fri, Nov. 14: Exam 3 on *When the Meadowlark Sings*
- Mon, Nov. 17: Postwar Stagnation
- Wed, Nov. 19: Montana Indians in Modern Times
- Fri, Nov. 21: 1970s Politics and Environmentalism
- Mon, Nov. 24: Study Day
- Wed, Nov. 26: No class (Thanksgiving Break)
- Fri, Nov. 28: No class (Thanksgiving Break)
- Mon, Dec. 1: Economic Boom and Bust
- Wed, Dec. 3: Contemporary Montana
- Fri, Dec. 5: Discuss *On the Road Again*
- Exam 4: Monday, December 8, 8:00 am