

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

---

Spring 2-1-2017

### HSTA 255.01: Montana History

Harry W. Fritz

*The University of Montana*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Fritz, Harry W., "HSTA 255.01: Montana History" (2017). *Syllabi*. 4863.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/4863>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

If America is growing short  
of anything, it is Montana.  
---K. Ross Toole

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**HSTA 255, Spring 2017  
MWF 12:00-12:50, ISB 110**

**H. Fritz, LA 151A  
[harry.fritz@umontana.edu](mailto:harry.fritz@umontana.edu)**

**MONTANA**

Course Syllabus

"Montana" began nearly two centuries ago as territory inhabited by Native Americans, somewhere on the Upper Missouri River. Since then its written history has passed through recognizable stages, from "discovery" through statehood to contemporary developments. History 255 provides, in roughly chronological order, a basic narrative and topical account of Montana's past two centuries.

The stuff of history, however, is not description but interpretation. This class has been defined in significant ways by the late UM Professor K. Ross Toole (1920-1981). In Montana: An Uncommon Land (1959), Toole provided the only sustained interpretation of Montana history yet advanced. Does that view, which is largely economic, satisfactorily explain what happened?

Montana history is organized as a standard lecture/reading/exam course. It meets three times per week, on MWF at 12:10 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. There will be two midterms, on Monday, March 1 and Wednesday, April 7, and a final on Wednesday, May 12.

**Buy these at the U.C. Bookstore:**

K. Ross Toole, *Montana, An Uncommon Land* (1959).  
Harry W. Fritz, Mary Murphy, and Robert R. Swartout, Jr., eds., *Montana Legacy: Essays on History, People, and Place* (2002)

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND EXAMINATIONS**

**MONTANA: THE FIRST CENTURY**

READ: *Uncommon Land*, chs. 1-V11 (pp. 3-166).  
*Montana Legacy*: Essays by Porter, Calloway, Swartout

M Jan 23 Introduction: Ross Toole's Montana

**Jan 25-Feb 6 THE DISCOVERY OF MONTANA**

W Jan 25 History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark,  
F Jan 27 to the sources of the Missouri, thence across the Rocky Mountains and  
M Jan 30 down the River Columbia to the Pacific Ocean. Performed during the years  
W Feb 1 1804-5-6 by Order of the Government of the United States  
F Feb 3 Mountain Men and the Fur Trade  
M Feb 6 Native Montanans

**Feb 8-24 PIONEER MONTANA**

W Feb 8 The Vigilantes of Montana  
F Feb 10 The Organization of Society  
M Feb 13 Montana Territorial Politics  
W Feb 15 "Custer's Last Stand:" The Battle of the Little Big Horn

F	Feb 17	Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce retreat
M	Feb 20	Washington/Lincoln Birthday HOLIDAY
W	Feb 22	The Cattle Kingdom
F	Feb 24	Statehood: November 8, 1889

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 MIDTERM EXAMINATION I**

**PROGRESSIVE MONTANA**

READ: *Uncommon Land*, chs. VIII-XI, (p. 167-242)  
*Montana Legacy*, Essays by Walter, Emmons, McDonald, Murphy  
 RECOMMENDED: Spence, Melcher

**Mar 1-8 THE WARS OF THE COPPER KINGS**

W	Mar 1	The Battle for Butte: The Political and
F	Mar 3	Economic Struggle for Corporate Control
M	Mar 6	of Montana and the Rise of Anaconda
W	Mar 8	Copper, 1880-1906

**Mar 10-April 3 PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE**

F	Mar 10	Populists and Progressives
M	Mar 13	Progressive Reforms
W	Mar 15	Homesteaders
F	Mar 17	The Great War, Dixon, and Depression
M-F	Mar 20-24	SPRING BREAK
M	Mar 27	The Dawes Severalty Act, 1887, and Allotment of the Reservations
W	Mar 29	Burton K. Wheeler and the Indian New Deal
F	Mar 31	The 1930s: New Deal in Montana
M	Apr 3	The Age of Reform

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 MIDTERM EXAMINATION II**

**CONTEMPORARY MONTANA**

READ: *Uncommon Land*, ch. XII  
*Montana Legacy*, Essays by Furdell, Edgerton, Svingen, Farr, Dobb  
 RECOMMENDED: Mercier, Fritz

**Apr 7-21 ORIGINS OF CONTEMPORARY MONTANA**

F	Apr 7	PHI ALPHA THETA: NO CLASS
M	Apr 10	World War II and Its Aftermath
W	Apr 12	The Political Revolution: Reapportionment
F	Apr 14	The Political Revolution: The Constitution of 1972
M	Apr 17	The Economic Revolution: Timber and Copper
W	Apr 19	The Economic Revolution: Agriculture and Energy
F	Apr 21	The Environmental Revolution

**Apr 24-May 5 PRESENT AND FUTURE**

M	Apr 24	The Collapse of Traditional Montana
W	Apr 26	The Modern Montana Economy
F	Apr 28	Fritz Daily: The Berkeley Pit
M	May 1	The Demographic Explosion
W	May 3	Deregulation
F	May 5	Montana in the 21st Century

*If the fight against environmental degradation can be won anywhere, it can be won in Montana.*

--K. Ross Toole

**Final Examination: Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 10:10 - 12:10 p.m.**