ENST 391.01: Special Topics - Environment Montana - From Anaconda to Zortman

Rosalyn R. LaPier
University of Montana - Missoula, rosalyn.lapier@mso.umt.edu

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ENVIRONMENT MONTANA - FROM ANACONDA TO ZORTMAN
ENST 391: Spring 2015

Rosalyn LaPier
Office: Jeanette Rankin Hall 017
T/TH 11:10-12:30am
243-6787
Office Hours: T 1:00-4:00pm, also by appointment
rosalyn.lapier@msou.umt.edu

COURSE PURPOSE:
The environment of Montana has changed dramatically in the past 150 years. The purpose of
this course is to provide an introduction to the land, people and places of Montana as viewed
through the lens of environmental change. It will explore environmental change in relation to
the actions of human beings. Through a combination of lectures, readings, focused in-class
discussions, and a research project students will learn about the environmental story of
Montana.

This course has three main goals: 1) to introduce environmental studies students to the
realities associated with important historical events and contemporary issues in the
environmental story of Montana; 2) to help students evaluate competing arguments about
environmental issues by using evidence and sources from academic scholarship; and 3) to
guide students through the process of writing an original 10-12 page research paper, from
definition to research to writing and revision.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course the student will be able to;
1) Articulate an understanding of the environmental story of Montana.
2) Improve intellectual skills of critically and efficiently reading, summarizing and
analyzing scholarly works.
3) Improve communication skills, listening to others, speaking publicly and writing an
effective academic paper related to environmental studies.

REQUIRED READINGS
See list at end of syllabus.

MOODLE
The Syllabus, Reading and Writing Assignments will be posted on Moodle.

ATTENDANCE
“Students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments for courses in
which they are enrolled. Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of
illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or participation in a University sponsored
activity.... Instructors shall excuse absences for reasons of military service or mandatory public
**ACADEMIC HONESTY**
“All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at” [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

**STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

**DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES**
Appropriate accommodations will be made by the University pursuant to the policies of the Disability Student Services, [http://life.umt.edu/dss](http://life.umt.edu/dss).

This course meets Tuesday & Thursday from 11:10am to 12:30am.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**
1/27 TU Introduction: Montana, the West & Environmental Stories
1/29 TH Discussion – Readings: Various from NYTimes

**Week 2**
2/3 TU Before Montana – Readings: Lang “Describing a New Environment”
2/5 TH Discussion/S&A Due

**Week 3**
2/10 TU Extinction/ Bison – Readings: Isenberg “Toward a Policy of Destruction”
2/12 TH Discussion/S&A Due

**Week 4**
2/19 TH Discussion/S&A Due

**Week 5**
2/26 TH Discussion/S&A Due

**Week 6**
3/5 TH Discussion/S&A Due
Week 7
3/10 TU Conservation – Readings: Swanson, “Metcalf” 1 & 2
3/12 TH Discussion/S&A Due

Week 8
3/19 TH Discussion/S&A Due

Week 9
3/24 TU Historical Impacts/Montana Today – Films
3/26 TH Discussion/S&A Due

Week 10
3/31 TU No Class – SPRING BREAK
4/2 TH No Class – SPRING BREAK

Week 11
4/7 TU Discussion/Book Analysis Due – Readings: Tyer, Opportunity, Montana.
4/9 TH Researching Montana’s Environment

Week 12
4/14 TU Research Methods & Writing
4/16 TH Research Methods & Writing

Week 13
4/21 TU Individual Meetings/Outline Due
4/23 TH Individual Meetings/Outline Due

Week 14
4/28 TU Oral Presentations of Research/First Draft Due for Peer Review
4/30 TH Oral Presentations of Research

Week 15
5/5 TU Writing & Rewriting/Peer Review Due
5/7 TH Writing & Rewriting

Week 16
5/12 TU FINAL PAPER Due
ASSIGNMENTS
Class Participation (20 points)
Readings Summary & Analysis (40 points, 8 @ 5 points each)
Book “Opportunity, Montana” Analysis (10 points)
Outline (5 points)
Oral Presentation (5 points)
First Draft/Peer Review (5 points)
Final Draft (15 points)

GRADING:
Final Grade based on a percentage of Total Points (100).

The work you submit for grading must be your own original work, written by you specifically for this course and individual assignments. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment.

ASSIGNMENTS:
Class participation. Class is a place for collective learning, and collective learning requires both active listening and thoughtful speaking. Attendance is required.
Summary & Analysis. Carefully read the weekly readings before class meets, write a summary and analysis of the main points and ideas of reading(s), 4 pages, double-space.
Book Analysis. Write an analysis of assigned book, 5+ pages, double space with reference list.
Writing Assignment(s). Students will complete an overall research project, utilizing only scholarly references, of an issue or controversy of historic or contemporary concern to environmental studies in Montana. It will consist of several parts. 1) An Outline, 1-2 pages, single space with reference list; 2) A completed First Draft, 8-10 pages, double space with reference list; 3) A Peer Review of another student’s paper, 2-3 pages, single space; and 4) A Final Draft, 10-12 pages, double space with reference list.
Oral Presentation. Students will present their research to their peers, 10-15 minute oral presentation with visual aids (Powerpoint or Prezi).

Note Regarding Assignments:
• Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed in the syllabus.
• No late assignments.
• Use Turabian Author/Date style for citations and references.

LIST OF ARTICLES, FILMS & BOOKS, IN ORDER OF WHEN THEY ARE ASSIGNED:
Various readings from the New York Times.


American Serengeti. 1 hr.
Facing the Storm: Story of the American Bison. 1 hr., 1 ½ hr.
Before There Were Parks. 26 min.
Butte, America. 1 hr.
Fort Peck Dam. 1 hr.
Electric Nation. American Revealed. 1 hr.