Hist 162:The American West

Spring 2017

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This semester we shall together explore the social and cultural history and current views of the many Wests we think we know. In 1872, President Grant established Yellowstone National Park, only the first of many national and state nature reserves in the west. Even while the Parks were widely celebrated, in 1876 Grant allowed miners and land speculators into the Black Hills, or Paha Sapa, land long considered sacred by the Lakota peoples and 'protected' for them as recently as the 1868 Treaty of Laramie. From this pairing of events in the 1870s spring the many overlapping themes this course will address: Native peoples, their beliefs and material cultures, pressured by the arrival of scattered extractive industries (gold rushes, silver and copper mining, logging); irregular sources of industrial and banking capital from England, New York, Chicago, and elsewhere; the arrival of the US Army in 1851, then a break removing troops for the Civil War, then their renewed and constant appearance from 1864 on and the making and breaking of other treaties; the irregular scattering of land speculators and dirt farmers, even while the US government insisted the Sioux and Cheyennes, among other peoples, not disturb the passage of planters on the Oregon Trail, even as their hunting grounds were enclosed by the Union Pacific and North Pacific railroads by 1870.

A second pairing is the social history of dirt farmers in all their difficulties, and the mimetic “shows” successfully established by William Cody and other intercultural entrepreneurs. In such mimesis the connection of culture and commerce becomes apparent. Many naturalists, hikers, and artists arrived by rail to visit the western parks: Yellowstone, Yosemite (1890; the same year as the massacre at Wounded Knee), and the Grand Canyon (1919). By 1900, American tourists went west to see wild West Indian Shows and wonder at the new parks. They ate at restaurants serving western food, wore western clothing and cowboy boots, and listened to western music that finally reached its high point when folklorist Hal Cannon founded the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, in 1984, still active today with offshoots in Durango, Montana, and Texas.

The requirements for the course include: 1. Even though this is nominally a lecture class, you should feel free to ask questions and make regular contributions to class discussion by addressing issues engaged with the readings for the week (10%); 2. a mid-term examination (on Thursday March 2, 30%); 3. a paper (no less than 7 pp, no more than 10) due in class on Thursday April 9, 20%) This paper will consist of a compare/contrast exercise that chooses two of the required books covered up to that point. I recommend that the books can be chosen from any combination of: *An Unsettled Country, Building Zion, House Made of Dawn, Indian Views of the Custer Fight, On the Road Again: Montana’s Changing Landscape, Yellowstone.* However, if any of you would like to work on any recommended titles from the course syllabus, you must let me know and it is also up to you to locate them; and 4. A final examination, tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 6 for 9-11 am (more later on its location, 40%).

The books for this semester are available at The Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th. St. (Phone: 225-222-7600: email: [info@PennBookCenter.com](mailto:info@PennBookCenter.com)):

Carter, Thomas R. *Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015.

Hardorff, Richard G. ed. and comp. *Indian Views of the Custer Fight: A Source Book.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005.

Magoc, Chris J. Yellowstone: The Creation and Selling of an American Landscape, 1870-1903. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999.

McNenly, Linda Scarangella. *Native Performers in Wild West Shows: From Buffalo Bill to Euro Disney.* Norman: University of Oklahoma a Press, 2012.

Momaday, N. Scott. *House Made of Dawn.* New York: Harper Perennial Editions, 2010.

Worster, Donald. *An Unsettled Country: Changing Landscapes of the American West.* Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1994.

Wyckoff, Walter. *On the Road Again: Montana's Changing Landscape*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006

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Note: Required readings that are articles or essays in edited collection that will be posted on the Canvas site for the class are marked by an asterisk (\*).

1. (Jan. 12) Introduction to course: Different Wests

Req.: Richard White, "Frederick Jackson Turner and Buffalo Bill," and

Patricia Nelson Limerick, "The Adventures of the Frontier in The Twentieth Century,"

both in *The Frontier in American HistoryAn Exhibition at the Newberry Library,*

*August 26, 1994--January 7, 1995,* ed. James Grossman (Berkeley: University of

California Press for the Newberry Library, 1994).

Part I. Resources

1. (Jan. 17, 19) Keys of exploration: Lewis & Clark to John Wesley Powell

Req.: Donald Worster, *An Unsettled Country: Changing Landscapes of the American West,* pp. ix-xii ( Preface) and 1-30.

Rec.: Thomas Schmidt and Jeremy Schmidt, *The Saga of Lewis and Clark into the Uncharted Wes*t (New York: DK Publishing, 1990.

Thomas P. Slaughter, *Exploring Lewis and Clark: Reflections on Men and Wilderness* (New York: Knopf Press, 2003).

3. (Jan. 24, 26) Water: Control, Rights, Empire

Req.: Worster, *An Unsettled Country*, pp. 31-51.

And read any three of the following essays in *Great River of the West: Essays on the Columbia River*, ed. William L. Lang and Robert R. Carrier (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999):

\*Lang and Carriker, "A Resurgent Columbia River: An Introduction," pp. 3-17.

\*Henry Zenk, "'Dr. McKay's Chinook Address May 11 1891': A Commemoration in Chinook Jargon of the First Columbia River Centennial," pp. 35-52.

\*James Ronda, "On the Columbia: The Ruling Presence of This Place," pp. 76- 88.

\*Patricia Nelson Limerick, "'This perilous situation between hope and despair': Meetings Along the Great River of the West," pp. 89- 111.

\*Richard Guy Wilson, "American Modernism in the West: Hoover Dam," in

Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 291- 320.

Part II. People Moving, Conflicting.

4. (Jan. 31, Feb. 2) Farmers and 'Pioneers'

Req.: \*Philip Dole, "The Calef's Farm in Oregon: A Vermont Vernacular Comes West," in Thomas R. Carter, ed. *Images of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 63- 90,

\*David Murphy, "Building in Clay on the Central Plains," in Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, ed. *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, III* (Columbia MO: University of Missouri Press, 1989), pp. 74- 85.

\*Blanton Owen, "Dry Creek: Central Nevada's Damele Ranch," in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 91-112.

Rec.: Chris Wilson, "When a Room is the Hall?: The Houses of West Las Vegas, New Mexico," in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 113- 28.

Diana K. Davis, *The Arid Lands: History, Power, Knowledge* (Boston: MIT Press, 2016).

5. (Feb. 7, 9) Mormons on the Move

Req.: Carter, Thomas R. *Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015.

Rec.: Richard Francavigla, *The Mapmakers of New Zion: A Cartographic History of Mormonism* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2015).

Jan Shipps, "Conclusion: Sacred Landscapes in Transition," in *Mountain West: Sacred Landscapes in Transition*, ed. Jan Shipps and Mark Silk (Walnut Creek CA, Altamira Press, 2004).

Michael W. Homer, *Joseph's Temple: The Dynamic Relationships Between Freemasonry and Mormonism* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2014).

6. (Feb. 14, 16) Scattered Ethnic traditions

Req.: \*Christopher L. Yip, "A Chinatown of Gold Mountain: The Chinese in Locke, California,"in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 153- 72.

\*Christopher Martin, "Skeleton of Settlement: Ukrainian Folk Building in Western North Dakota'" in Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, ed. *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, III* (Columbia MO: University of Missouri Press, 1989), pp. 86-98.

\*Alison K. Hoaglund, "Russian Churches, American Houses, Aleut People: Converging Cultures in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska," in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), pp. 129- 52.

7. (Feb. 21, 23). Native Cultures, Native Voices

Req.: N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn.* New York: Harper Perennial Editions, 2010.

NB: On Thursday of this week (Feb. 23), we will be meeting at the University Museum (TBA).

Rec.: *Off the Path: An Anthology of 20st Century Montana American Indian Writers, vol. 1*, ed. Adrian L. Haworth (Billings, Montana: Off the Path Press, 2014).

*Off the Path II: An Anthology of 20th Century American Indian and Indigenous Writers, vol. 2*, ed. Adrian L. Jawort (Billings: Off the Path Press, 2015).

8. (Feb. 28, March 2). mid-term review and midterm exam

Req.:, *An Unsettled Country*, pp. 55-90 (Ch. 3. "Other People's, Other Lives")

9. (March 4-12) SPRING BREAK

10. (March 14, 16) Native Americans strike back, 1876-2000..

Req.: Richard G. Hardorff, ed. and comp. *Indian Views of the Custer Fight: A Source Book.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005.

Rec.: Evan S. Connell, *Son of the Morning Star: Custer and the Little Bighorn* (San Francisco: North Point Press, 1984).

David Humphreys Miller, *Custer's Fall: The Native American Side of the Story* (New York: Meridian, Penguin-Putnam, 1985).

11. (March 21, 23) Extractive industries

Req.: \*Fredric L. Quivik,"The Historic Industrial Landscape of Butte and Anaconda, Montana," in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press,1997), pp. 267-90.

\*Kingston Heath, "False-Front Architecture on Montana's Urban Frontier,” in Thomas R. Carter, ed. I*mages of an American Land: Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States* (Albuquerque NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997). pp. 21- 40.

Rec: Michael Malone, *The Battle for Butte: Mining and Politics on the Northern Frontier, 1864-1906* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1981).

Part III. Mimesis

12. (March 28, 30) What time is this place? Notes on Kevin Lynch.

Req.: Wyckoff, Walter. *On the Road Again: Montana's Changing Landscape*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006.

Rec.: Keith H. Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996).

13. (April 4, 6) "Landscapes of Federal Largesse" (as in William Wyckoff, *How to Read the American West: A Field Guide* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014), pp. 238-282).

NB: Your paper is due in class. On Thursday, April 7)

Yellowstone:

Req.: Chris J. Magoc, *Yellowstone: The Creation and Selling of an American Landscape, 1870-1903*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999.

\*Warwick Frost and C. Michael Hall, "Reinterpreting the Creation Myth: Yellowstone National Park," in *Tourism and National Parks: International Perspectives on Development, Histories and Change*, ed. Warwick Frost and C. Michael Hall (New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 16-29.

Rec.: Mark Daniel Barringer, *Selling Yellowstone: Capitalism and the Constr*uction of Nature (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2002

Yosemite:

\*Stephen R. Mark and C. Michael Hall, "John Muir and William Gladstone Steel: Activists and the Establishment of Yosemite and Crater Lake National Parks," in *Tourism and National Parks: International Perspectives on Development, Histories and Change*, ed. Warwick Frost and C. Michael Hall (New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 88- 101.

Rec.: Jen Huntley, *The Making of Yosemite: James Mason Hutchings and the Origins of America's Most Popular National Park* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2011).

14. April 11, 13) 'Playing Indian' with 'Real' Indians

Req.: Linda Scarangella McNenly, *Native Performers in Wild West Shows: From Buffalo Bill to Euro Disney.* Norman: University of Oklahoma a Press, 2012.

Rec.: \*Rayna Green, "The Tribe Called Wannabe: Playing Indian in America and Europe,"*Folklore* 99: 1 (1988): 30-55.

Celia E Naylor, "Playing Indian"?: The Selection of Radmilla Cody as Miss Navajo Nation, 1997-1998," in *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country*, ed. Tiya Miles and Sharon P. Holland (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), pp. 145-63.

Philip J. Deloria, *Playing Indian* (New Haven: Yale University, 1998).

15. (April 18, 20) Tourism

Req.: \*Patricia Nelson Limerick, "Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West," in *Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West*, ed. David W. Wrobel and Patrick T. Long (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press for The Center for the American West at the University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001), pp. 39- 58.

Rec.: Hal Rothman, "Shedding Skin and Shifting Shape: Tourism in the Modern World" in this same collection.

16. (April 25) Course summary: more notes on the west today.

Req.: Worster, *An Unsettled Country*, pp. 99-120 (Ch. 4: "The Warming of the West").

\*William L. Lang, "What has Happened to the Columbia? A River's Fate in the Twentieth Century," in Great *River of the West: Essays on the Columbia River*, ed. William L. Lang and Robert R. Carrier (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999): pp. 144-68.

Class website on Hal Cannon, Cowboy Poetry, 1984, Elko NV.

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