

# HSTA 255: Montana

Professor Jeff Wiltse

LA 251 / jeffrey.wiltse@umontana.edu

Office hours: W: 1:30-3:00, F: 10:00-11:00, or 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 intellectual skills, including 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 shorter 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.

Jared Diamond, "Modern Montana," in *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, 25-76.

## Assignments and Grading

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

Exam #1: Friday, September 28, and Monday, October 1

Exam #2: Monday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 31

Paper: Due Monday, November 26

Exam #3: Monday, December 10, 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
Paper:	10 percent

### 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.

### DSS 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 using Cyberbear is September 17. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is October 29. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. December 7 is the last day to drop by petition.

### Course Schedule

#### Unit One: First Peoples and Pioneer Period

Mon, Aug. 27: Course Introduction

**Start reading:** Welch, *Fools Crow*

Wed, Aug. 29: Prehistoric Montana I: First People

Fri, Aug. 31: Prehistoric Montana II: Cultural Innovation

Mon, Sep. 3: No class (Labor Day)

Wed, Sep. 5: Montana Indians during the Eighteenth Century

Fri, Sep. 7: Lewis and Clark Expedition

Mon, Sep. 10: Fur Trade

**Read:** Fur Trade Documents

- Wed. Sep. 12: Montana Indians during the Fur Trade Era
- Fri., Sep. 14: Treaties of the 1850s
- Mon, Sep. 17: Montana Gold Rush
- Wed. Sep. 19: Gold Rush Consequences
- Fri. Sep. 21: Dispossessing Montana Indians
- Mon, Sep. 24: Cattle Kingdom
- Wed. Sep. 26: Discuss *Fools Crow*
- Fri. Sep. 28: Exam 1A on *Fools Crow* and Fur Trade Documents
- Mon, Oct. 1: Exam 1B on Unit One lectures

Unit Two: Industrial Montana

- Wed, Oct. 3: Long Road to Statehood
- Start reading:** Punke, *Fire and Brimstone*
- Fri, Oct. 5: Industrialization of Mining
- Mon, Oct. 8: Immigrants and Cities
- Wed, Oct. 10: Smoke Wars
- Fri, Oct. 12: Clark-Daly Feud
- Mon, Oct. 15: War of the Copper Kings
- Wed, Oct. 17: Reforming Montana Politics
- Fri, Oct. 19: Dawes Act and Indian Education
- Mon, Oct. 22: Homestead Boom
- Read:** Robertson, "Homestead Days in Montana"
- Wed, Oct. 24: Montana and World War I
- Fri, Oct. 26: Discuss *Fire and Brimstone*

Mon, Oct. 29: Exam 2A on *Fire and Brimstone*

Wed, Oct. 31: Exam 2B on Unit 2 Lectures

Unit Three: Modern Montana

Fri, Nov. 2: Agricultural Depression of the 1920s

**Start reading:** Sterry, *When the Meadowlark Sings*

Mon, Nov. 5: Great Depression in Montana

Wed, Nov. 7: New Deal in Montana

Fri, Nov. 9: Indian New Deal

Mon, Nov. 12: No class (Veterans Day)

Wed, Nov. 14: Montana During World War II

Fri, Nov. 16: Postwar Stagnation

Mon, Nov. 19: Discuss *When the Meadowlark Sings*

Wed, Nov. 21: No class (Thanksgiving Break)

Fri, Nov. 23: No class (Thanksgiving Break)

Mon, Nov. 26: Montana Indians in Modern Times **Paper Due**

**Start reading:** Diamond, "Modern Montana"

Wed, Nov. 28: 1970s Politics and Environmentalism

Fri, Nov. 30: Economic Boom and Bust

Mon, Dec. 3: Contemporary Montana

Wed, Dec. 5: Climate Change and Montana's Future

Fri, Dec. 7: Discuss Diamond, *Collapse*

Final Exam: Monday, December 10, 8:00 to 10:00 am