HSTA 255: Montana
Professor Jeff Wiltse
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Office hours will be conducted through Zoom on Mondays, 3:00-4:00 pm; Wednesdays, 1:00-1:45 pm; and by appointment. My faculty webpage (http://hs.umt.edu/history/people/default.php?s=Wiltse) has links to access the office hour meetings.

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 early 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 key intellectual skills: 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 reading the following short “Document Readings” that are available as PDF files on the course Moodle page.

- Climate Change in Montana Articles from the *Bozeman Chronicle*

Assignments and Grading

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

Exam #1: Monday, September 21, and Wednesday, September 23
Exam #2: Monday, October 19, and Wednesday, October 21
Exam #3: Monday, November 23, 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: 40 percent

**Academic Honesty**

All students are required to practice 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 9. The last day to drop with instructor and advisor signature is October 21. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after this date. November 18 is the last day to drop this course.

**Course Schedule**

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

- Wed, Aug. 19: Course Introduction
  
  **Start reading:** Welch, *Fools Crow*
  
- Fri, Aug. 21: Prehistoric Montana I: First People
- Mon, Aug. 24: Prehistoric Montana II: Cultural Innovation
- Wed, Aug. 26: Montana Indians during the Eighteenth Century
- Fri, Aug. 28: Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Mon, Aug. 31: Fur Trade

**Read:** Fur Trade Documents
Wed. Sep. 2: Montana Indians during the Fur Trade Era
Fri., Sep. 4: Treaties of the 1850s
Mon, Sep. 7: No class (Labor Day)
Wed, Sep. 9: Montana Gold Rush
Fri, Sep. 11: Gold Rush Consequences
Mon, Sep. 14: Dispossessing Montana Indians
Wed, Sep. 16: Cattle Kingdom
Fri, Sep. 18: Discuss Fools Crow
Mon. Sep. 21: Exam 1A on Fools Crow and Fur Trade Documents
Wed, Sep. 23: Exam 1B on Unit One lectures

Unit Two: Industrial Montana

Fri, Sep. 25: Long Road to Statehood
Start reading: Punke, Fire and Brimstone

Mon, Sep. 28: Industrialization of Mining
Wed, Sep. 30: Immigrants and Cities
Fri, Oct. 2: Clark-Daly Feud
Mon, Oct. 5: War of the Copper Kings
Wed, Oct. 7: Reforming Montana Politics
Fri, Oct. 9: Dawes Act and Indian Education
Mon, Oct. 12: Homestead Boom
Read: Robertson, “Homestead Days in Montana”

Wed, Oct. 14: Montana and World War I
Fri, Oct. 16: Discuss Fire and Brimstone
Mon, Oct. 19: Exam 2A on *Fire and Brimstone* and “Homestead Days in Montana”

Wed, Oct. 21: Exam 2B on Unit 2 Lectures

**Unit Three: Modern Montana**

Fri, Oct. 23: 1920s Agricultural Depression

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

Mon, Oct. 26: Great Depression in Montana

Wed, Oct. 28: New Deal

Fri, Oct. 30: Indian New Deal

Mon, Nov. 2: Montana During World War II and Discuss *When the Meadowlark Sings*

Wed, Nov. 4: Postwar Stagnation

Fri, Nov. 6: Montana Indians in Modern Times

Mon, Nov. 9: 1970s Politics and Environmentalism

Wed, Nov. 11: No class (Veterans Day)

Fri, Nov. 13: Economic Boom and Bust

Mon, Nov. 16: Contemporary Montana

Wed, Nov. 18: Climate Change and Montana’s Future

*Read:* Climate Change in Montana Articles

Final Exam: Tuesday, November 24, 1:10-3:10 pm