



Summer seminars, June 2-6, American West Heritage Center

MONDAY, June 2:

9:00-11:15: Race, Labor, Land: Blacks & Indians in the Post-Civil War Era
Prof. Colleen O'Neill

From 1865 through the 1890s, Americans experienced a dramatic transformation in the ways that they lived and worked on the land. African Americans in the south were no longer slaves, but many were now bound to the land as share croppers, their freedom curtailed by a system of debt peonage. At the same time as black southerners were finding their lives "reconstructed" federal officials were carving up tribal lands in an effort to transform American Indians into farmers, and undermine their tribal identities. Federal Indian policy, meant to "free" Indians from their tribal associations, reduced Indian land holdings by more than 2/3. This session will compare the plight of American Indians and southern blacks, to explore how their experiences were linked to broader transformations in US politics, cultures and economies.

1:45-4:00: The Culture Wars in Historical Perspective
Prof. Victoria Grieve

The talk will concentrate on 3 areas: art in the public sphere (starting with 1930s art projects and going through the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial); the history wars from the Progressive Era through the 1990s; and religion in the schools from the Scopes Trial through creationism. The main themes would focus on the Identities - who gets to decide what is represented as American; the perspectives of each side; role of religion in public life; notions of community and the public square. I think it's relevant to teachers not only for the content but also for gaining perspective on the culture wars of the present.

TUESDAY, June 3:

9:00-11:15: Traditional Foodways

Prof. Steve Siproin

Food isn't just nutrition, eating isn't only a necessity, and a kitchen isn't just a place to eat. In recent decades, some scholars have gone beyond food chemistry to study what is now called "foodways": a universal form of expression and communication (a language, a code) and a repository of ideas, values, attitudes, and beliefs. Not too long ago, to say one was studying the meaning of food was to risk laughter and raised eyebrows. But today the cultural study of food engages serious scholars in many disciplines. This talk will illustrate the value of using foodways to understand and appreciate American history and culture

1:45-4:00: American Childlore: Breaking the Triviality Barrier

Prof. Lisa Gabbert

Children's folklore, or childlore, can be defined as traditions that are passed on from child to child and should not be confused with children's literature, which is literature written by adults for children. Childlore offers insight into the concerns, values, and preoccupations of children in a way that is not influenced by adults. This talk focuses particularly on how childlore is implicated in the construction of gender identity, power, and justice in order to illustrate that children's jokes, rhymes, and games are far from trivial despite their nonsensical features.

WEDNESDAY, June 4

9:00-11:15: America's "Tools of Empire": US Expansionism in the late 19th C

Prof. Timothy Wolters

This talk explores the role of technology in westward and overseas American expansionism from the Civil War through the turn of the twentieth century. It focuses on the social ramifications surrounding developments in communications, transportation, and military technologies, most notably the telegraph, the railroad, and the naval-industrial complex. The presentation contributes primarily to the PATHS themes Enterprise and Power, but also illuminates the theme of Land. The presentation is particularly relevant to the following core standards: Social Studies, 5th Grade – Standard 2, Objectives 1, 2, 3; Standard 6, Objective 3; Standard 10, Objective 1
Social Studies, U.S. History I - Standard 1, Objective 1; Standard 10, Objectives 1, 2
Social Studies, U.S. History II - Standard 1, Objective 3; Standard 2,

Objective 1; Standard 4, Objective 1

1:45-4:00: Hurricane Katrina and the *Unnatural* History of Natural Disasters in America

Prof. Lawrence Culver

In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast and inundated the city of New Orleans, causing one of the greatest natural disasters in American history. Yet Katrina was not unique; throughout its history, the United States has been ravaged by many natural disasters. Many of these disasters, however, were not really "natural." They were, instead, caused or greatly exacerbated by human actions. By examining the interaction of human and natural causes for disasters including fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, and the Dust Bowl, we can uncover more than just the history of natural disasters. The un-natural history of natural disasters in America connects to the PATHS themes of land and equality, for in this history we can discern the larger cultural, environmental, social, and urban history of the U.S., and the issues of race, class, and power that often determined who suffered the worst effects of "natural" disasters in American history.

THURSDAY, June 5

9:00-11:15: Coming Over: Immigration in Early America

Prof. Norm Jones

This presentation will explore the reasons sixteenth and seventeenth century Europeans moved to North America. For some, religion was an impelling force, but for many others economic opportunities and the prospect of land were more important. The Elizabethan joint stock companies and royal monopolists who sponsored immigration will be explored, too, as will the geopolitical conflicts that surrounded English, Spanish and French settlements in the "New World."

1:45-4:00: Slavery in the Early Republic

Prof. Heath Mitton

Slavery permeated practically every aspect of the early American republic. We should expect nothing less from an institution that represented two-thirds of the U.S. South's equity in 1860—to the amount of \$80 billion in 2008 U.S. dollars. Yet slavery's relationship to the early American republic has been greatly misunderstood by generations of scholars who failed to grasp a central question: was slavery destined to die a "natural economic death" as a result of the Industrial Revolution? Not surprisingly, Americans of the early republic held every conceivable view on the subject. Nevertheless, an unmistakable pattern in their thinking

emerged between Thomas Jefferson's day and that of Jefferson Davis—a pattern that explains the timing of the American Civil War and even larger dynamics of globalization that persist to this day.

FRIDAY, June 6

9:00-11:15: Religious Identity and Self-Identification

Prof. Alice Chapman

This presentation examines the interplay between religious identity and self-identification. The first part of the talk provides an overview of the five major world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam using a four step process. The Four C's of Creed, Code, Cultus, and Community will be applied to the religious traditions, examining the way in which each religion identifies itself. The second part of the presentation will ask the participants to engage in an activity designed to provide practical insight into the relationship between religious group identity and individual self-identification.

1:45-4:00: The "Place" of Faith in America

Prof. Philip L. Barlow

One does not understand American culture without grappling with its religion. But such an effort can be daunting, for the United States is the most religiously complex society in the history of civilization. What difference does region, "space," and "place" make to the character of America's religions? And how does religion affect the public life of its various, sometimes contested regions? With a strong visual component of religious mapping, this presentation will test the wisdom of José Ortega y Gasset's hyperbole: "Show me the landscape in which you live and I will tell you who you are."