

HIST 6481: History of Appalachia

Directed Readings Course

Fall Semester 2010

Dr. Keith S. Hebert

University of West Georgia

khebert@westga.edu

Course Description

This graduate student level directed readings course examines the history of the Appalachian region from the colonial period through the end of the 20th century. The course will examine critical issues related to the region's history including: industrialization, colonization, labor, poverty, Native Americans, folk and material culture, and regional stereotypes. Students who complete this course will understand the relationship between Appalachia and the rest of the United States as well as the internal relationships that exist within this distinctive American region.

Students will meet with the course professor once a week for at least one hour. During these meetings the class will engage in a detailed discussion of the week's readings and place those readings within its larger Appalachian and American history context.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who had a documented disability that might impair their performance in the class should see the course professor as soon as possible in order to discuss possible accommodations. It is a student's responsibility to discuss any accommodations with the course professor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Students who miss more than one class meeting will receive a 10-point reduction in their final grade. Students who miss more than three class meeting will automatically fail the course. If you know that you are going to miss class, and you have a documented excuse for doing so, please contact the course professor via e-mail prior to the class meeting. In such cases an excused absence may be granted. If students simply do not show up, no excused absence will be granted.

Course Assessments

Class Discussion	33 percent of course grade	Weekly
Weekly Response Paper	33 percent of course grade	Weekly Due 24 hours prior to class (khebert@westga.edu)
Book Reviews	34 percent of course grade	Seven for the semester

Course Assessment Description

Class Discussion—33 percent of course grade

Students are expected to read each week's assigned reading thoroughly and come to class prepared to discuss those readings with other students and with the course professor. Students who cannot demonstrate that they have read the required readings will receive a failing participation for that week. Excellent participation requires that students offer informed comments about the book; draw comparisons between what they have read for the week with materials they have read in other history classes; and make connections between the history of the Appalachian region and other regions throughout the United States and world. Students must come to class ready to talk. The course professor will not lecture this semester. Students will receive a weekly discussion grade that will be marked on their weekly response papers.

Weekly Response Papers—33 percent of course grade

Students must write a 500 word response paper weekly. The paper must examine that week's assigned reading. A response paper is not a summary of the book. A response paper analyzes the book's central argument, sources, and relationship to other history books—particularly those we will read in this course. Students must also include several discussion questions at the end of their response papers. Questions do not count toward your total word count. The course professor will use those questions to help guide the discussion. Response papers will be graded for clarity of presentation, comprehension of the assigned reading, analysis of that reading, and ability to relate that reading to other works of history. All response papers must be emailed to the course professor 24 hours prior to the start of class (Wednesdays at 12:30PM) Papers may be emailed to khebert@westga.edu

Book Reviews—34 percent of course grade

Students must write (7) 750-word book reviews this semester. Students must turn in a book review once every two week for the semester. Students may review any of the books we will read for the semester. All reviews must conform to some basic book review guidelines. The course professor will discuss those guidelines in greater detail during a class meeting. Failure to complete the required (7) reviews will result in a failing grade for the semester. Every graduate student must turn in (7) book reviews this semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1-- John Oliphant, *Peace and War on the Anglo-Cherokee Frontier, 1756-63.*

Week 2-- Sarah H. Hill, *Weaving New Worlds: Southeastern Cherokee Women and Their Basketry.*

Week 3-- Wilma Dunaway, *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia.*

Week 4-- Paul Salstrom, *Appalachia's Path to Dependency: Rethinking a Region's Economic History, 1730-1940.*

Week 5-- Martin Crawford, *Ashe County's Civil War: Community and Society in the Appalachian South.*

Week 6-- Kathleen Blee and Dwight Billings, *The Road to Poverty: The Making of Wealth and Hardship in Appalachia.*

Week 7-- Crandall Shifflett, *Coal Towns: Work and Culture in Company Towns of Southern Appalachia, 1880-1960*.

Week 8-- Deborah McCauley, *Appalachian Mountain Religion: A History*.

Week 9-- Anita Puckett, *Seldom Ask, Never Tell: Labor and Discourse in Appalachia*.

Week 10-- Mary K. Anglin, *Women, Power, and Dissent in the Hills of Carolina*.

Week 11-- James K. Crissman, *Death and Dying in Central Appalachia: Changing Attitudes and Practices*.

Week 12-- Shelly Romalis, *Pistol Packin' Mama: Aunt Molly Jackson and the Politics of Folksong*.

Week 13-- David Whisnant, *All That's Native and Fine: The Politics of Culture in an American Region*.

Week 14-- Donald Davis, *Where There Are Mountains: An Environmental History of Southern Appalachians*.

Week 15-- Janes S. Becker, *Selling Tradition: Appalachia and the Construction of American Folk, 1930-1940*.