



HIST 201: The History of Outdoor Recreation in the American West
Tuesday Thursday 12:30 – 1:45
Eddy, Room 119
Dr. Michael Childers
Office: Clark B 361
Office hours: T/Th 11:00-Noon and by Appointment
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From skiing to fishing, outdoor recreation has come to define the American West. This course will explore the history of outdoor recreation in the American West, tracing its global roots, its production and management by governmental agencies, controversies surrounding various forms of recreation, and role in defining the region's environmental history. In doing so, students will learn and employ skills such as critical thinking, research, and writing, essential to historical thinking. To that end, students will research, write, and edit 500-600-word historical write-up for [Intermountain Histories](#) digital public history project with the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University. Essays will be based upon three different primary source collections: Climbing in Yosemite National Park, The development of Snow Basin ski resort in Flagstaff, Arizona, and recreation's role in the preservation of the Cache la Poudre River in Colorado. Additionally, students will read and discuss four books on topics ranging from consumerism to politics.

Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe important economic, technological, and cultural developments in outdoor recreation and environmental thought over the past two hundred years
- Analyze and interpret both primary and secondary sources pertaining to the history of outdoor recreation.
- Analyze continuity and change over time in relation to the history of outdoor recreation and environmental thought.
- Examine critically how people in the United States during this period perceived nature through their own leisure.
- Demonstrate and improve skills in communicating about the past through speech and writing, using evidence according to the standards of the historical discipline.

- Demonstrate understanding and use of concepts through writing, presentations, and project development.

Required Reading

- Jen Brown, *Trout Culture: How Fly Fishing Forever Changed the Rocky Mountain West*
- Yvon Chouinard, *Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman*
- Hal Clifford, *Downhill Slide: Why the Corporate Ski Industry is Bad for Skiing, Ski Towns, and the Environment*
- Michael Yochim, *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile: Locking Horns Over National Park Use*

Style Guide

See Chicago Manuel of Style at:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html.

Assignments

Reading reflection worksheets (5 point each)

Students will fill out and submit a worksheet for each assigned reading on Canvas. Worksheets are available on canvas and are due **the night before class**. They are meant to foster discussion and understanding of topics covered in class lectures and discussions.

Prospectus (50 points)

Students will turn in a 5-6 page prospectus on their proposed essay. Each essay will provide 1. An abstract identifying the topic, primary and secondary sources, and historical context 2. An annotated bibliography of **at least three** primary sources and two secondary sources 3. Three to six images taken (required by Intermountain Histories) 4. Work plan complete with dates

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival Review (50 points)

Students will attend one evening of the Banff Film Festival (on the evenings of February 22, 23, or 24th) and then write a 500-700 word review of the films they saw and how they connect with the course. Tickets must be purchases in advanced (\$17 a piece) at www.csutix.com. Purchase during the first week of the semester.

Rough Draft (50 points)

Students will compose and submit a rough draft of their essay for review. The draft **must be as complete as possible** and include the 3-6 images and permissions as required by Intermountain Histories.

Final Draft (50 points)

Students will turn in a final, copy edited draft complete with images and permissions by the final week of the semester. Students will work with the professor to polish and correct any errors made in rough draft.

Presentation (50 points)

Students will present their story in a 6-minute oral presentation. They should use the images used for the essay in their presentations.

University Policies

The University's policy on academic integrity will be listed on the course syllabus. Students will have an opportunity to provide an honor pledge on assessment components as appropriate.

Students will access course information through Canvas, which is a secured web site that only students in the class can use. The course instructor will provide links on Canvas to materials for selected assignments. The textbook can be purchased through the CSU Bookstore or online.

Course materials will be reviewed for copyright and legal usage. A statement will be posted on Canvas indicating that all course materials are for student use only.

When offered online, assessment components will be administered through Canvas. Students will arrange to have quizzes and exams proctored by following the Proctor@CSU link. All assignments and contacts will be through Canvas and CSU email accounts to provide reasonable assurance of security for student work and identity.

Grades

All grades are based upon points earned for assignments and then assigned a letter grade from the table below.

Letter	Percentage
A	93-100% - Excellent
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86% - Good
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76% - Satisfactory
D	60-69% - Poor (but passing)
F	0-59% - Failing

Schedule

Unit One – The Prospectus

Week One

January 22 Introduction – An Overview of Intermountain Histories
January 24 Recreation and defining the American West

Week Two

January 29 Meet Patricia Rettig, CSU Library Archivist
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Introduction and Chapter 1
January 31 The Sorting & Writing a Prospectus
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Chapter 2

Week Three

February 5 Sources – What are they and why do we need them?
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Chapter 3
February 7 Crisis of Recreation
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Chapter 4

Week Four

February 12 – Hook and Bullet – History of Hunting in America
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Chapter 5
February 14 – The City Beautiful Movement
Required Reading – *Trout Culture* Chapter 6 and Epilogue
Prospectus Due

Unit 2 – The Research

Week Five

February 19 Starting Your Research – Control Your Information!!!!!!
Required Reading – *Let My People Go Surfing* Introduction and History pages 1 - 40
February 21 Radical Reels: Film and Outdoor Recreation
Required Reading – *Let My People Go Surfing* *Let My People Go Surfing* History pages 41 - 80

February 22, 23, or 24 - Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival
Location: Lory Student Center Theatre, CSU Main Campus
Doors @ 6pm / Show @ 7pm
Tickets \$17 at www.csutix.com go on sale Monday December 17th.

Week Six

February 26 Film: *Worn to Wear: A Film About the Stories We Wear* and Material Culture
Required Reading – *Let My People Go Surfing* Product Design Philosophy, Production
Philosophy and Distribution Philosophy

February 28 No Class Meeting

Banff Mountain Film Review Due via Canvas by midnight

Week Seven

March 5

Required Reading – *Let My People Go Surfing* Image Philosophy, Financial Philosophy, and
Financial Philosophy

March 7 A History of Skiing in the American West

Required Reading – *Let My People Go Surfing* Human Resource Philosophy, Management
Philosophy, and Environmental Philosophy

Week Eight

March 12 Go Build it on the Mountain: Skiing and Urban Growth in Colorado
Reading – *Downhill Slide* Chapter 1 -2

March 14 *Resorting to Madness: Taking Back Our Mountain Communities*

Required Reading – *Downhill Slide* Chapter 3-4

Spring Break

March 19 - 21

Unit 3 – The Draft

Week Nine

March 26 Writing a First Draft – Crafting a Narrative

Required Reading – *Downhill Slide* Chapter 5-7

March 28 The Unbearable Whiteness of Skiing: Race in Skiing/Snowboarding

Required Reading – *Downhill Slide* Chapter 8-9

Week Ten

April 2 An Introduction to the National Parks

Required Reading – *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile* Introduction and Chapter 1

April 4 What is Appropriate Use within a National Park?

Required Reading – *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile* Chapter 2

Week Eleven

April 9 Half Dome and the Environmental Costs of Recreation in the National Parks

Required Reading – *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile* Chapter 3

April 11 No Class Meeting

Week Twelve

April 16 I, Tool Man! – Technology and Nature

Required Reading – *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile* Chapter 4

April 18 Fordism and the Great Outdoors – OHVs, Boats, and Motorized Recreation

Required Reading – *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile* Chapter 5 and Conclusion

Draft Due

Unit 4 – The Revising and Resubmitting

Week Thirteen

April 23 – How to think about revisions

April 25 – Recreation and the American West – Closing Thoughts

Week Fourteen

April 30 – Presentations I

May 7 – Presentations II

Week Fifteen

May 14 – Final Essay Due