

INTRODUCTION TO APPALACHIAN STUDIES (APST 2060-001)
Fall Semester 2002:
T, Th: 12:45 p.m.-2:05 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Ted Olson

* Center for Appalachian Studies and Services
Warf-Pickel Building, Room # 209
Telephone # (423) 439-6172

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An interdisciplinary, multi-media introduction to the study of the Appalachian region, focusing on the idea of Appalachia in American and world consciousness and on the treatment of the region in the social sciences, media, literature, and the arts. Through examining Appalachian regional issues and through comparing Appalachian people with other cultural groups, we will explore problems of cultural identity, cultural assumptions, cultural change, and cultural manipulation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the problems in defining Appalachia
2. To trace the evolution of the concept of Appalachia from the seventeenth century to the present
3. To analyze treatment of Appalachia in social sciences, media, literature, and the arts
4. To define and examine such processes as cultural identity, cultural assumptions, and cultural hegemony
5. To compare Appalachia with other mountain cultures worldwide and with mainstream American culture

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Thom, Follow the River
2. Arnow, The Dollmaker
3. Giardina, Storming Heaven
4. Stuart, The Thread That Runs So True

ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATION, STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. As a matter of academic responsibility, each student is expected to attend class regularly, keep up with reading and written assignments, and contribute to class discussions. Participation in all class activities is important and will contribute a portion of the final grade. Lack of participation, lack of preparation, and/or irregular attendance could factor negatively in grade computation.
2. Each student will take five quizzes during the term covering reading assignments, class discussions, lectures, films, etc. These quizzes will not necessarily be announced ahead of time, so students should keep up with their various class assignments.

3. Each student will write three short (2 typed pages) reaction papers to assigned readings, media presentations, or guest lectures.

4. Each student will keep a journal. Some topics will be assigned by the instructor, other topics will be the choice of the student.

5. Each student will complete a term project on a selected topic worked out in consultation with the instructor. Term projects can be multi-media, but all projects must include a written component of no less than 6 pages (typed and double-spaced).

6. Each student will present to the rest of the class an oral report based on his/her term project.

7. Each student will take a comprehensive final exam.

Coursework will be evaluated according to the distribution listed below:

Reaction papers (3)	15%
Mid-term exam	15%
Term project	25%
Journals	5%
Final exam	25%
Oral report	5%
Participation	10%
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	100%

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Introduction to the Appalachian region
Problems of defining Appalachia
Native Americans in Appalachia: The Cherokee experience
Early European perceptions of the region
Appalachia as frontier: wilderness vs. civilization
Appalachia, Romanticism, and Local Color
Industrialization of the region
Merchandizing the mountaineer
Mass culture in the mountains
Appalachia and the culture of poverty
Struggle and resistance in Appalachia
Appalachian identity and cultural hegemony
Contemporary Appalachia
Cultural pluralism in Appalachia
Appalachia in a global context

NOTE: Our daily and weekly schedules will be discussed during class meetings. It is each student's responsibility to obtain this information through regular class attendance.