Introduction: For many of us, the word “Appalachia” conjures up a variety of seemingly contradictory images. It is an area of stunning natural beauty, yet one often identified with extensive environmental degradation. It is an area rich in natural resources, yet one typically associated with abject poverty. It is an area of economic potential, as well as economic decline. While special emphasis will be placed on natural resource extraction (especially coal mining) and its effects on the physical environment and people of Appalachia, this course will also devote attention to the following: the invention and construction of an Appalachian region; cultural stereotypes; settlement and expansion; cultural diversity; land ownership and speculation; mining and industry; labor relations; the changing role of women; and the impact of federal programs. Lectures, readings, occasional films, guest speakers, a field trip, and a “volunteer” opportunity will all contribute to the content of the course.

Course Evaluation: Final grades for undergraduate students will be based on the following: a mid-term exam (100 points), a final exam (100 points), a 5-7 page research paper (100 points), and an annotated bibliography (100 points). Final grades for graduate students will be based on the following: a mid-term exam (100 points), a final exam (100 points), a 10-15 page research paper (100 points), an annotated bibliography (50 points), and a conference-style presentation (50 points). Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will cover material addressed in class, as well as from readings, guest lectures, graduate student presentations, and films. All research topics must be approved by the instructor. If you are absent for an exam, you will be given the opportunity to take a make-up exam if a) you provide me with a doctor’s note explaining why you were unable to attend class and b) you contact me within 24-hours of the original exam date. (Consult University regulations regarding excused absences). Final grades will be based on the following: A 94-100%; A- 90-93%; B+ 87-89%; 84-86%; B- 80-83%; C+ 77-79%; C 74-76%; C- 70-73%; D+ 67-69%; D 64-66%; D- 60-63%; F 59% and lower.

Students with Special Needs: If you have any special needs, please notify me as soon as possible so we can make necessary arrangements.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance and participation in discussion is essential for success in this course. Attendance will be taken at random during the course of the term.

One final note: Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with swiftly and severely. If you are caught cheating on an exam or a paper, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you are caught cheating a second time, you will receive a grade of “F” for the course and your name will be passed on to the proper authorities. Please do not be tempted!
**Tentative Class Schedule**

**March 31**
Course Introduction - Where is Appalachia?

**April 2, 7**
Regional Geography and the Invention of Appalachia

**April 9, 14**
Regional Stereotypes
Reading: “Hillbilly Culture: The Appalachian Mountain Folk in History and Popular Culture” by John Solomon Otto; “From Stereotype to Regional Hype: Strategies for Changing Media Portrayals of Appalachia” by Jean Haskell Speer; “Feuding in Appalachia: Evolution of a Cultural Stereotype” by Altina L. Waller (reserve); video: “Strangers and Kin”;

**April 16, 21**
Migration, Settlement, and Population
Reading: “The Eastern Cherokees in Southern Appalachia: Principal People, Persistent People” by Betty J. Duggan; “New Paths and Patterns of Appalachian Migration, 1975 - 1990” by Phillip J. Obermiller and Steven R. Howe; “‘We ain’t agoin’ back’: A Retrospective Look at Urban Appalachians in Greater Cincinnati” by Phillip J. Obermiller and Michael E. Maloney.

**April 23, 28**
Culture and Diversity
Reading: “Diversity in the Mountains and Regional and Cultural Identity” by Gordon B. McKinney; “Serpent Handlers: When the Sacrament Comes Alive” by Mary Lee Daugherty (reserve); “Dialect as a Deterrent to Cultural Stripping: Why Appalachian Migrants Continue to Talk That Talk” by Patricia Smith Jones; and “Appalachian Music and American Popular Culture: The Romance That Will Not Die” by Bill C. Malone;
Special Guest: fiddler Nikos Pappas, Ohio University School of Music.

**April 30**
Mid-Term Examination

**May 5**
Physical Geography of Appalachia
Reading: “Appalachia’s Physical Geography” by K. Raitz and R. Ulack (reserve).

**May 7, 12, 14**
Mining and Industry
Reading: “History of Coal Mining in Appalachia” by G. L. Buckley (reserve); Black Days, Black Dust: The Memories of an African American Coal Miner by Robert Armstead; video: “Harlan County USA”;
Special Guest: retired coal miner R. Glenn Ray. Annotated bibliographies due May 14th.

**May 19, 21**
Environmental Alteration
Reading: “Rape of Appalachia” by Jedediah S. Purdy; “The Environmental Transformation of an Appalachian Valley” by G. L. Buckley (reserve); “Mountaintop Removal: Necessity or Nightmare?” by Rudy Abramson (reserve); video: “On Our Own Land”; Field Trip - Hawk Woods (Optional).

**May 26**
Memorial Day - No Class

**May 28**
Federal Programs and Economic Recovery
Reading: “Poverty” by Richard A. Couto; “Four Perspectives on Appalachian Culture and Poverty” by Roger A. Lohmann; “From Farm to Coal Camp to Back Office and McDonald’s” by Sally Ward Maggard; video: “Fast Food Women.”
Research Papers Due June 2nd (5:00 p.m.)

**June 2**
Charting Appalachia’s Future/Graduate Student Presentations

**June 4**
Final Exam, 10:10 a.m.
Suggested Readings
(This may be a good place to start as you consider books to review and research topics)


Barbara Rasmussen, *Absentee Landowning and Exploitation in West Virginia 1760-1920* (Lexington, KY: The


You might also consider consulting the following for research ideas:

**Journals and Magazines**

Appalachia: Journal of the Appalachian Regional Commission  
Appalachian Notes  
Appalachian Heritage  
Appalachian Journal  
The Appalachian South  
Foxfire Magazine  
Georgia Historical Quarterly  
Goldenseal  
Journal of Appalachian Studies  
Journal of Southern History  
Journal of the Appalachian Studies Association  
Journal of East Tennessee History  
Katuah Journal  
Labor History  
Maryland Historical Magazine  
May We All Remember Well: A Journal of the History and Cultures of Western North Carolina  
Mountain Life and Work  
North Carolina Folklore Journal  
North Carolina Historical Review  
Now and Then Magazine  
Southern Folklore  
Storytelling World  
Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin  
Tennessee Historical Quarterly  
Traditions: A Journal of West Virginia Folk Culture and Educational Awareness  
Virginia Magazine of Biography and History  
West Virginia History  
Proceedings of the Appalachian Studies Association  
www.arc.gov (Appalachian Regional Commission)  
www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/ (Appalachian Center at the University of Kentucky)  
www.appalachianstudies.org (Appalachian Studies Association at West Virginia University)