

# GEOG 333/533 - Appalachia: Land and People

(02832, 02854)  
Spring 2003  
MW 10:10 - 12:00  
Clippinger 119

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**Books/Course packet:** The following materials are required for the course:

Robert Armstead, *Black Days, Black Dust: The Memories of an African American Coal Miner* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2002).

Phillip J. Obermiller and Michael E. Maloney, eds., *Appalachia: Social Context Past and Present*, 4e (Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt, 2002).

A course packet of selected readings is available in the reserve reading room at Alden Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). This course packet is also on electronic reserve via the OU library website.

**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**  
Reading: "Appalachia" by Richard A. Couto; "The Sociology of Southern Appalachia" by David S. Walls and Dwight B. Billings; and "Appalachian Studies, Resistance, and Postmodernism" by Alan Banks, Dwight Billings, and Karen Tice.
- 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"; ***Special Guest: Rep. Ted Strickland (D - Ohio 6<sup>th</sup> District). Paper Topics (grads and undergrads) Due April 14<sup>th</sup>***
- 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 14<sup>th</sup>.***
- 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**  
**June 2**            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 2<sup>nd</sup> (5:00 p.m.)**
- June 4**            **Charting Appalachia's Future/Graduate Student Presentations**  
Reading: "The Grass Roots Speak Back" by Stephen L. Fisher; "The Bullnoser" by Robert Morgan (reserve).
- June 9**            **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)

Appalachian Landownership Task Force, *Who Owns Appalachia? Landownership and Its Impact* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1983).

Robert Armstead, *Black Days, Black Dust: The Memories of an African American Coal Miner* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2002).

Richard A. Bartlett, *Troubled Waters: Champion International and the Pigeon River Controversy* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995).

Allen W. Batteau, *The Invention of Appalachia* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1990).

Jane S. Becker, *Selling Tradition: Appalachia and the Construction of an American Folk, 1930 - 1940* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

Dwight B. Billings, Guerney Norman, and Katherine Ledford, eds., *Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes: Back Talk From an American Region* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1999).

Brian Black, *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).

Harry Caudill, *Night Comes to the Cumberlands: A Biography of a Depressed Area* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1963).

\_\_\_\_\_, *Theirs be the Power: The Moguls of Eastern Kentucky* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983).

David Alan Corbin, *Life, Work, and Rebellion in the Coal Fields: The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880 - 1922* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981)

Donald Edward Davis, *Where There Are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2000).

Keith Dix, *What's a Coal Miner to do? The Mechanization of Coal Mining* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988)

Richard B. Drake, *A History of Appalachia* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001).

Wilma Dunaway, *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700-1860* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

Durwood Dunn, *Cades Cove: The Life and Death of a Southern Appalachian Community, 1818-1937* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1988).

Ronald D. Eller, *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Mountain South, 1880 - 1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982).

Bruce Ergood and Bruce E. Kuhre, eds., *Appalachia: Social Context Past and Present*, 2d ed. (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1983).

Carl E. Feather, *Mountain People in a Flat Land: A Popular History of Appalachian Migration to Northeast Ohio, 1940-1965* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1998).

David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1989).

Stephen L. Fisher, ed., *Fighting Back in Appalachia* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993).

Barbara Freese, *Coal: A Human History* (Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2003).

Richard V. Francaviglia, *Hard Places: Reading the landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1991).

John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1980).

John Gaventa, Barbara Smith, and Alex Willingham, eds., *Communities in Economic Crisis: Appalachia and the South* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990).

Carol A. B. Giesen, *Coal Miners' Wives: Portraits of Endurance* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995)

William Graebner, *Coal-Mining Safety in the Progressive Period: The Political Economy of Reform* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976).

Rhoda Halperin, *The Livelihood of Kin: Making Ends Meet "The Kentucky Way"* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990).

John C. Hennen, *The Americanization of West Virginia: Creating a Modern Industrial State, 1916 - 1925* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1996).

David Hsiung, *Two Worlds in the Tennessee Mountains: Exploring the Origins of Appalachian Stereotypes* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1997).

Terry G. Jordan and Matti Kaups, *The American Backwoods Frontier: An Ethnic and Ecological Interpretation* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989).

Bill J. Leonard, ed., *Christianity in Appalachia: Profiles in Regional Pluralism* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999).

Ronald L. Lewis, *Black Coal Miners in America: Race, Class, and Community Conflict, 1780 - 1980*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1987.

Ronald L. Lewis, *Transforming the Appalachian Countryside: Railroads, Deforestation, and Social Change in West Virginia, 1880-1920* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

W. K. McNeil, ed., *Appalachian Images in Folk and Popular Culture* (Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1989).

Robert D. Mitchell, *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977)

Robert D. Mitchell, ed., *Appalachian Frontiers: Settlement, Society and Development in the Preindustrial Era* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1990).

Phillip J. Obermiller, Thomas E. Wagner, and E. Bruce Tucker, *Appalachian Odyssey: Historical Perspectives on the Great Migration* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000).

Mary Beth Pudup, Dwight B. Billings, and Altina L. Waller, ed., *Appalachia in the Making: The Mountain South in the Nineteenth Century* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1995).

Raitz, K. and R. Ulack, *Appalachia, A Regional Geography: Land, People, and Development* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1984).

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

University Press of Kentucky, 1994).

Paul Salstrom, *Appalachia's Path to Dependency: Rethinking a Region's Economic History, 1730 - 1940* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1994).

Henry D. Shapiro, *Appalachia on Our Mind: The Southern Mountains and Mountaineers in the American Consciousness, 1870 - 1920* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1978).

Jerry Bruce Thomas, *An Appalachian New Deal: West Virginia in the Great Depression* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1998).

Jack E. Weller, *Yesterday's People: Life in Contemporary Appalachia* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1965).

John Alexander Williams, *West Virginia and the Captains of Industry* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Library, 1976).

J. W. Williamson, *Hillbillyland: What the Movies did to the Mountains and What the Mountains did to the Movies* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995)

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](http://www.arc.gov) (Appalachian Regional Commission)

[www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/](http://www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/) (Appalachian Center at the University of Kentucky)

[www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org) (Appalachian Studies Association at West Virginia University)