MAINE: A COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

This intermediate-level seminar takes a long and comparative view of the evolution of various Maine social, economic, and ecological communities—inland, hill country, and coastal—from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. The examination of those communities takes place through the historiographical perspectives of community history and environmental history. The course begins with the contact of European and Native American cultures; it examines the transfer of English and European agricultural traditions in the seventeenth century and eighteenth centuries, and explores the development of diverse geographic, economic, ethnic, and cultural communities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Course requirements: The seminar consists of two class meetings each week. All of the assigned readings for each class should be completed by that class meeting. (The further readings listed in the Reading Guide are not required.) You are expected to attend all meetings of the seminar and to arrive prepared to participate in a discussion and analysis of the assigned readings [40% of final grade]. The History/ES 247 Reading Guide on Blackboard provides questions to help you focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to all of the assigned articles, either through e-reserve or an online Library database. If you miss a class, you are expected to write an informal (ungraded) but thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned readings for that class. You are encouraged to purchase the assigned books from the bookstore; a copy of each of the assigned books is on reserve in the library.

During the first half of the course, students will write three short (3 pages) papers on the three assigned “traveler’s tales” [together, 25% of final grade]. Each paper will present a focused historical discussion of an aspect of the environmental conditions and/or the prospects and development of communities in Maine as these were understood, described, and assessed by Christopher Levett in 1623-4, Timothy Dwight in 1796, 1797, and 1807, and Henry David Thoreau in 1846, 1853, and 1857. During the second half of the course, students will design and pursue a research project that focuses on the environmental history of a community in Maine, using both primary and secondary sources, submit a research paper prospectus, and present a short work-in-progress report [prospectus and presentation, 5%]. The research paper (12-15 pages) will be due on or before the scheduled final exam date for the course [in most cases, 30% of final grade]. For guidelines and exceptions, see the Extension, Deadline, and Grading Policy on the Blackboard course home page.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by The Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation described on the Academic Honesty and Plagiarism site at http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/academic-honesty/index.shtml.

Alan Taylor, Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier (1990)
WEEK 1
1/25  INTRODUCTION: THINKING HISTORICALLY
Robert Blackey, et al., Teaching Innovations Forum: “Thinking Historically in the Classroom,”
AHA Perspectives 33.7 (October 1995). (LINK to notes)

1/27  OVERVIEW: THE LAND OF NORUMBEGA: Doing Maine History
Alan Taylor, “Center and Peripheries: Locating Maine’s History,” Maine History 39:1 (Spring 2000), 3-16. (e-reserve)

WEEK 2
2/1  ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
Introduction, xi-xv.
Kent Ryden, “Environment and Imagination in New England,” Maine History 40:1 (Spring 2001), 70-75. (e-reserve)

2/3  COMMUNITY HISTORY
Thomas Bender, Ch. 1, “Introduction: The Meanings of Community,” Ch. 2, “Social Theory and the Problem of Community,” in Community and Social Change in America (1978), 3-43. (e-reserve)
Darrett Rutman, “Assessing the Little Communities of Early America,” William and Mary Quarterly 3d Ser., 43:2 (1986), 163-178. (JSTOR)
Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper in History (LINK)
The Travelers’ Tales: Instructions for the Short Essays (LINK)

WEEK 3
2/8  THE FIRST TRAVELER’S TALE: CHRISTOPHER LEVETT’S VOYAGE

2/10  LIBRARY TOUR: meet at Bookhenge on the first floor of H-L Library
Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper Prospectus in History (LINK)

Friday, Feb. 12: First paper due
WEEK 4
2/15  THE COAST: THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS
Alaric Faulkner, “Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damariscove Island,” Historical Archaeology 19.2 (1985), 57-86.  (JSTOR)

2/17  THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE CONTACT OF CULTURES:
James Eric Francis, Sr., “Burnt Harvest: Penobscot People and Fire,” Maine History 44.1 (2008), 5-18.  (e-reserve)

WEEK 5
2/22  THE ENCOUNTER IN MAINE AND NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
Christopher Bilodeau, “Creating an Indian Enemy in the Borderlands: King Philip’s War in Maine, 1675-1678,” Maine History 47.1, (2013), 11-41.  (e-reserve)
Emerson W. Baker and James Kences, “Maine, Indian Land Speculation, and the Essex County Witchcraft Outbreak of 1692,” Maine History 40:3 (Fall 2001), 159-189.  (e-reserve)

2/24  MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC: THE “NORTHEASTERN” FRONTIER

WEEK 6
2/29  THE KENNEBEC PROPRIETORS AND THE BACKCOUNTRY SQUATTERS
Alan Taylor, Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier (1990)

3/2  Individual research project conferences

WEEK 7
3/7  THE SECOND TRAVELER’S TALE: LANDSCAPES AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT OF MAINE
Timothy Dwight, “Preface,” Vol. I, 1-11;  (e-reserve)
3/9  **RADICAL RELIGION AND UTOPIAN ASPIRATIONS IN MAINE, 1783-1920**
Jason Stone, “Till Shiloh Come,” *Down East Magazine* 36.8 (March 1990), 44-48, 56. (e-reserve)

*Friday, Mar. 11: Second paper due*

**WEEK 8**

3/28  **RURAL LIFE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY MAINE**
Theresa Kerchner, “The Improved Acre: The Besse Farm as a Case Study in Land-clearing, Abandonment, and Reforestation,” *Maine History* 44.1, (2008), 77-102. (e-reserve)

3/30  **THE MAINE WOODS**

*Friday, April 1: research project prospectus due*

**WEEK 9**

4/4  **THE THIRD TRAVELER’S TALE: THE MAINE WOODS**

4/6  **FARMING ON THE MAINE COAST**

*Friday, Mar. 8: Third paper due*

**WEEK 10**

4/11  **COASTAL AND ISLAND ECONOMIES**
Film, *Maine Independents: Our Fishing Heritage* 60 minutes (PBS 1999)
Nancy Payne Alexander, “‘Taking up the Slack’: Penobscot Bay Women and the Netting Industry,” *Maine History* 45.3 (2010), 259-280. (e-reserve)

4/13  **DEEP-SEA FISHERIES AND LOBSTER FISHING**
WEEK 11
4/18  AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN MAINE
      film: Anchor of the Soul 60 Minutes (1994)
      (November 1980), 53-56, 83-86.  (e-reserve)

      Monday, April 18:  Draft of introduction and first section of research paper due

4/20  IMMIGRATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION:  THE FRENCH-CANADIAN MIGRATION TO MADAWASKA
      AND THE MILL COMMUNITY IN Lewiston
      Beatrice C. Craig, “Early French Migrations to Northern Maine, 1785-1850,” Maine Historical Society
      Yves Frenette, “Understanding the French Canadians of Lewiston, 1860-1900:  An Alternate

WEEK 12
4/25  TOURISM AND ANTI-MODERNISM:  THE SEARCH FOR OLDE NEW ENGLAND
      Dona Brown, Inventing New England:  Regional Tourism in the Nineteenth Century (1995), Ch. 6,
      “The Problem of the Summer:  Race, Class and the Colonial Vacation in Southern Maine,
      1890-1910,” 169-199, 241-244.  (e-reserve)
      David Richards, “An Eden Out of a Country Farm:  Purity and Progress in the Landscapes of the
      Poland Spring Resort [1894],” Maine History 34.2 (1994), 136-153.  (e-reserve)

      Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century magazine reading:
      Edwin Lawrence Godkin, “The Evolution of the Summer Resort” (1882-89), from Reflections and
      Comments, 1865-1895 (1895), 295-308.  (e-reserve)
      Samuel Adams Drake, Ch. XXII, “In and Out of Bar Harbor,” in Drake, The Pine-Tree Coast
      (1891), 304-319.  (e-reserve)

4/27  TOURISM, THE “WILDERNESS,” AND WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION
      Maine History 34:2 (1994), 116-135.  (e-reserve)
      Richard R. Wescott, “Early Conservation Programs and the Development of the Vacation Industry
      Richard W. Judd, “Reshaping Maine’s Landscape:  Rural Culture, Tourism, and Conservation,

WEEK13
5/2  WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

5/4  WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

WEEK 14
5/9  CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC POLICY
      Christopher S. Beach, “Conservation and Legal Politics:  The Struggle for Public Water Power in
      Maine, 1900-1923,” Maine Historical Society Quarterly 32:3-4 (1993), 150-173.  (e-reserve)
      Richard W. Judd, “Saving the Fisherman as Well as the Fish:  Conservation and Commercial
      596-625.  (e-reserve)
CONCLUSION


*Research Paper Due: Tuesday, May 17, 5:00 pm*