

Sociology 213

Appalachian and American Cultural Systems

Spring 1997

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Founders Hall 209: tel. 689-1337

Office Hours: MW 9-10 AM and 2-4:30 PM

Tuesday 2-4 PM or by appointment

Introduction:

This course compares the traditional and contemporary lifestyles and values of Appalachian people to those of the surrounding American culture. The impacts of industrialization, stereotyping and socio-economic and cultural change are emphasized, using the southern mountain region as an example of trends at work in rural areas throughout the United States and the world. The course fulfills the American Culture requirement of the college's General Studies program.

Texts:

Bellah, Robert., et. al., Individualism and Commitment in American Life

Eller, Ronald D, Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930

Ergood, Bruce and Kuhre, Bruce E., Appalachia: Social Context Past and Present

Plaut, Thomas, People, Politics and Economic Life

Weller, Jack, Yesterday's People

Evaluation and Attendance Attendance: Three points will be deducted from your final grade for each class missed beyond the permitted two unexcused absences. An excused absence requires documentation from a doctor or college official. Attendance requires doing the reading before class and participating in class discussions. Evaluation will be based on workbook assignments and essays (60%) and examinations (40%).

Schedule:

Part I Appalachia: Definitions, History and Culture

Week 1

Wednesday, January 22

Introduction to the course and syllabus

Assignment for Friday: Ergood and Kuhre, "Why Study Appalachia" (Chapter 1).

Friday, January 24

Class will be in the Media Center classroom.

For Monday, use the Micro case "APCOUNTY" file

In the Soc213 directory on the computers in the Founders Hall Computer lab to complete the Workbook's chapter 1 exercises. Recommended reading: "The New Appalachian Subregions and their Development Strategies" in the Ergood and Kuhre reader.

Week 2 Monday, January 27

Class will meet in the Media Center classroom. For Wednesday, complete the exercises in the Workbook, chapter 2. Recommended reading: John Campbell's "Pioneer Routes of Travel and Early Settlements" in Ergood and

Kuhre.

Wednesday

Due: Two page, typed description on the settlement of Appalachia. Class will meet in the Media Center classroom to discuss settlement patterns and the multi cultural nature of the region. For Friday, read John C. Burnett's autobiographical history on library reserve.

Friday

Lecture: The First Appalachians-- The Cherokees
For Monday, read Eller, pages 3-23, to get a sense of mountain life before industrialization began in the 1880s.

Week 3 Monday, February 3

Richard Dillingham on preindustrial life in Appalachia. A tour of the Rural Life Museum and lecture on the material culture of preindustrial Appalachia. For Wednesday read Eller pp, 24-38.

Wednesday

Work in preindustrial mountain life. For Friday read Weller pp. 9-14 and Ergood and Kuhre, Second (Green) Edition, pp. 173-180 on the Appalachian Land Study. Recommended reading: Eller, Chapter 2.

Friday

Social change in Appalachia: The Coming of Capital. For Monday, complete Workbook, chapter 3 exercises on demographics. In Ergood and Kuhre, read Jerome Pickard on "Appalachia's.....Decade of Immigration."

Part II

The Contemporary Appalachian Political Economy

Week 4 Monday, February 10

Due: 2-3 page typed paper on migration patterns in Appalachia. Class will be in the Media Center classroom. Assignment for Wednesday: Workbook, chapter 4 (The Appalachian Economy I).

- Wednesday
Class will be in the Media Center classroom.
Assignment for Friday: Workbook, chapter 5 (The Appalachian Economy II).
- Friday
Due: 3 page description of the Appalachian economy.
Class will be in the Media Center classroom.
Assignment for Monday: Weller, pp. 28-43: come to class able to discuss the author's view of Appalachian people and the values of individualism, traditionalism and fatalism.
- Week 5 Monday, February 17
Discussion of Weller's view of Appalachian values.
For Wednesday, read Weller, pp. 44-57
- Wednesday
Discussion of Weller continues.
For Friday, read Weller, Chapter 5 on Community.
- Friday
Meet in Media Center Classroom for filmstrip on the history of Clinchco, a coal camp in southwestern Virginia.
For Monday, read Steve Fisher's "Victim Blaming in Appalachia," in the Ergood and Kuhre reader.
Recommended: Helen Lewis, "Fatalism or the Coal Industry."
- Week 6 Monday, February 24
Lecture: Explaining hard times in the mountains
For Wednesday, read Weller, Chapter 6 and Loyal Jones' "Appalachia Values" in Ergood and Kuhre.
- Wednesday
Discussion of Appalachian values and behavior
For Wednesday, type a list of interview questions to ask a life-long Madison County resident.
- Friday
Interview with Mrs. Betty Clark
For Monday, prepare for an exam on Appalachian values and history
- Week 7 Monday, March 3
First exam
For Wednesday do the exercises in the workbook, chapter 6: Race and Region.
- Wednesday
Due: Two page typed summary of your findings about race and discrimination in the Appalachian region.
Class will be in the Media Center classroom.
Assignment for Friday: Workbook, chapter 7, Voting Patterns and Economic Conditions.
- Friday
Class will be in the Media Center classroom.
For Monday: Workbook, chapter 8. Recommended reading in Ergood and Kuhre: "Toward a Definition of Appalachia," by

Bruce Ergood.

- Week 8, Monday, March 10 Discussion of findings in chapter 8.
For Wednesday, prepare a 2-3 page summary and history of the different definitions of Appalachia.
- Wednesday Due: Summary of definitions of Appalachia Review
- Friday Second Exam
- Week 9 Monday, March 24 Discussion: Pulling the pieces together for your papers on Appalachia.
- Wednesday Due: Summary papers: 15-20 pages
Discussion of papers
Assignment for Friday: Evaluate another student's paper
- Friday Discussions of evaluations
For Monday, read John Winthrop in the Bellah, et. al., Individualism and Commitment in American Life, pages 22-27.
- Part III. Appalachia and American Values and Social Institutions
- I. Religion
- Week 10 Monday, March 31 John Winthrop and the Biblical Tradition in America.
For Wednesday, read Weller's chapter 7, "The Mountaineer and the Church."
- Wednesday Discussion of traditional religion in Appalachia.
For Friday, read Varenne in Bellah, pp 328-335.
- Friday The social construction of religion in America.
For Monday, read Jerry Falwell and Jesse Jackson in Bellah, pp. 360-365.
- Week 11 Monday, April 7 Discussion: religion and ideology
For Wednesday, read Martin Luther King. Pp. 304-319.
- Wednesday Meet in Media Center for videotapes and discussion of nonviolent direct action and ministry.
For Friday, read the Weller, chapter 7, The Mountaineer and the Church. Recommended reading: Robert Coles, "God and the Rural Poor" in Ergood and Kuhre's second (green) edition and articles on settlement schools.
- Friday Discussion: missionaries and settlement schools.
For Monday, read Nancy Cott in Bellah, pp. 125-135.

II. The Family

Week 12 Monday, April 14

The evolution of the American Family
For Wednesday, read Schneider and Smith in Bellah, pp. 211-223.

Wednesday

Class position and family values.
For Friday, read Weller, chapter 4.

Friday

Discussion of family and gender roles in Appalachia.
For Monday, read Yankelovich on "New Rules" in Bellah, pp. 103-106. Update his statistics with data from the U.S. Census and/or MicroCase data files in the Founder's Hall Computer Lab. Write a two page summary on the transformation of the American Family 1950-1990.

Week 13 Monday, April 21

Due: papers on the family
Discussion of family in America and Appalachia
For Wednesday, read Ann Swindler on transformation in the concept of love. Bellah, pp. 107-125.

Wednesday

Discussion: "What is this thing called...."
Review for exam

Friday

Third Exam (religion and family)
For Monday read Thomas Jefferson's inaugural address in Bellah, pages 27-31.

III. Community and the Common Good

Week 14 Monday, April 28

Lecture: The idea of the Common Good
For Wednesday, read James Madison in Bellah, pp.379-386.

Wednesday

Discussion: Reagan, Cuomo and Bradley's proposed Paths to the common good.
For Monday, read the Bishops' Pastoral on the US Economy, Bellah, pp. 427-442.

Week 15 Monday, May 5

People as sacred: the U.S. Bishops proposals for the common good.
For Wednesday, continue to work on the Bishop's statement.

Wednesday

Discussion: The Pastoral letter's view of the common good.
For Friday, Read Wendell Berry on "The Unsettling of America," Bellah, pp. 453-472.

Friday

Review.

Tuesday, May 13

Final Examination 2:30 PM