Course Overview
This course focuses on the history of mountaineering, from the earliest times to the present. We will begin with discussions of the historiography of mountaineering, dive into a chronological focus on the history of mountains and mountaineering, work separately on our own projects, and end with the discussion of our work as a group. Our objective is two-fold: to analyze how historians have approached the history of mountaineering, and to advance upon those approaches in our own research in the history of mountaineering.

In the past decade, there has been a resurging interest in the study of mountains. This renewed focus has taken many forms, from standard heroic accounts of first ascents, to environmental approaches, to studies of race, class, and gender. We will look at all of these approaches. In essence, we will be doing mountain history, contemplating history through the lens of the world’s highest regions. What might such a history look like? How will it differ from more traditional histories? Though I encourage you to view the topic broadly, this course will focus heavily on the dynamic relationship between the advance of science and the exploration, conception, and use of the world’s mountains. Environmental history will form a major component of the course. We will critically examine how a variety of different scholars have examined the mountains, and use the readings as a springboard to produce original research.
Required Texts
Maurice Hertzong, *Annapurna* (Lyons Press, 1997)

Suggested Texts

Additional Readings:
In addition to the above texts, I will also place other assigned readings on our course website according to the week in which they are due. Visit [www.mountainsandminds.org/hstr-467](http://www.mountainsandminds.org/hstr-467). I may place additional readings on the website and syllabus as the semester progresses.

Mechanics:
The emphasis of the course – and thus your grade – will be on critically analyzing the history of mountains and mountaineering through readings and discussion. **THUS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ATTEND CLASS.** You must have the readings completed before class to contribute meaningfully to class discussion. Each week, you will be responsible for short reflections on the assigned readings, as well as in-class or take-home assignments that may include written analysis of the readings. You will present your work during the last two weeks of class. A final exam will be given on **May 1st, 12:00 – 1:50**, focused almost exclusively on the assigned readings and class discussions.

Final Projects:
A major objective of this course will be to undertake original research. The type of project is entirely up to you, but it must be a new project, based on primary and secondary material, and related to the overall themes of the course. You are encouraged to meet with me early in the semester to map out your research and to discuss sources. You may also want to focus your weekly writing assignments with your larger topic in mind.

Grading:
Writing Assignments on Readings: 30%
Final Exam: 20%
Final Project: 50%
   Journal Article Review 10%
   Primary Source Review 10%
   Prospectus and Sources 20%
   Research Paper 40%
   Final Presentation 20%
Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week One: Introduction

Th Jan 11: Introduction; Syllabus

CFP: Global Mountains
Climbing Theory: A Handbook
CFP: Panel on Verticality in the History of Science, ICHG 2018, Warsaw
Malone Conference: “The Heights and Depths of History”

Week Two: Why Climb?

T Jan 16: Why Mountains Matter

Thinking Mountains Conference
Reidy, “The Most Recent Orogeny”

Th Jan 18: Why We Climb?

John Long, “Wall Rats”
Isaak Rosenfeld, “Why Men Climb”
Julian Huxley, “Chamois”

Week Three: Mount Analogue

T Jan 23: Mount Analogue

Rene Daumal, *Mount Analogue*

**Why We Climb Essay Due**

7:00 pm: Provost Distinguished Lecture Series, Museum of the Rockies

Th Jan 25: No Class

Week Four: From the Enlightenment to the Victorians

T Jan 30: Where I’m Coming From: Verticality

Reidy, *Tides of History*, Chapter Eight, “The Tides of Empire”
Reidy, “From Oceans through Islands to Mountains”

Th Feb 1: No Class

Robert Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*

**Week Five: The Golden Age**

T Feb 6: The Rise of Mountaineering as a Sport

**Pick a Mountain Assignment Due**

Th Feb 8: No Class

Robert Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*

**Week Six: Mountains of the Mind**

T Feb 13: Discussion of Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*

Robert Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*

Th Feb 15: Halford Mackinder and the Scramble for Africa

**Week Seven: Gender and Mountaineering**

T Feb 20: Discussion of Mountaineers

**Pick a Mountaineer Assignment Due**

Th Feb 22: Mountains and Gender in America

Susan R. Schrepfer, *Nature’s Altars*

**Week Eight: Mountains and Nationalism**

T Feb 27: Climbing and War

Maurice Hertzog, *Annapurna*

Th Mar 1: Heinrich Harrer and the White Spider
Maurice Hertzong, *Annapurna*

**Week Nine: Mountains and Nationalism**

T Mar 6: Herzog and Annapurna

Th Mar 8: Discussion of *Annapurna*

Maurice Hertzog, *Annapurna*

**Week Ten: Spring Break**

**Week Eleven: Mountains and Guidebooks**

T Mar 20: Pat Callis (Guest Speaker)

*Bozeman Rock Climbs*

**Prospectus and Sources Assignment Due**

Th Mar 22: Yosemite


**Week Twelve: Yosemite Climbing**

T Mar 27: Camp 4 – Valley Uprising

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfcjH3W4Vbc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfcjH3W4Vbc)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t4ceByXD1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t4ceByXD1s)

Th Mar 29: Moralists and DirtBags


**Week Thirteen: Himalayan Climbing**

T Apr 3: Maggie Greene – guest lecture
Sherry Ortner, *Life and Death on Mt. Everest*

**Th Apr 5:** Conrad Anker – guest lecture

**Sherry Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest**

**Week Fourteen: Climbing and the Environment**

**T Apr 10:** Sherpas

**Sherry Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest**

**Th Apr 12:** Chouinard Catalogue


Chouinard, “Coonyard Mouths Off” and “Coonyard Mouths Off II”

“Patagonia’s Philosopher King,” *New Yorker*

**Letter to Chouinard Due in Class**

**Week Fifteen: Final Projects**

**T Apr 17:** Final Projects Presentations

**Final Research Project Assignment Due**

**Th Apr 19:** Final Projects Presentations

**Week Sixteen: Final Projects**

**T Apr 24:** Final Projects Presentations

**Th Apr 26:** Final Projects Presentations

**Final Exam: May 1st, 12:00 – 1:50**