

History 467 – Mountaineering
Pick a Mountaineer

Your second assignment will be to pick a mountaineer, any mountaineer, well known or scarcely acknowledged, but hopefully related to your larger project. I want you to write about this mountaineer through his or her vertical relationship to the landscape. To do this, I want you to:

study the biographical details of the mountaineer – when and where did he live, what was his profession, his interests, and his motivations. I want you to learn about his climbing, what drew him to the mountains, what he found there, and how he thought and wrote about it. I want you to explain why he is significant as a mountaineer, and why he is significant to you. I want to know where material is available that discusses his life, his work, and his climbing.

study the cultural and historical significance of the mountaineer – what was happening in her country when she was climbing, what were the major issues, who was she representing, how was she engaging broader cultural movements and ideologies, and where does she fit into the history of mountaineering and culture.

In two pages (exceptionally professional, exceedingly proofread, extraordinarily original), I want you to describe the mountaineer's specific life and broader culture. You may want to focus on a specific climb, a specific year, or a specific product; or, you may wish to take a much broader approach, focusing on larger geopolitical, social, economic, or religious aspects of her life. In a sense, you will be writing a vertical biography of the climber.

This assignment is due in class on Tuesday, October 1st.