

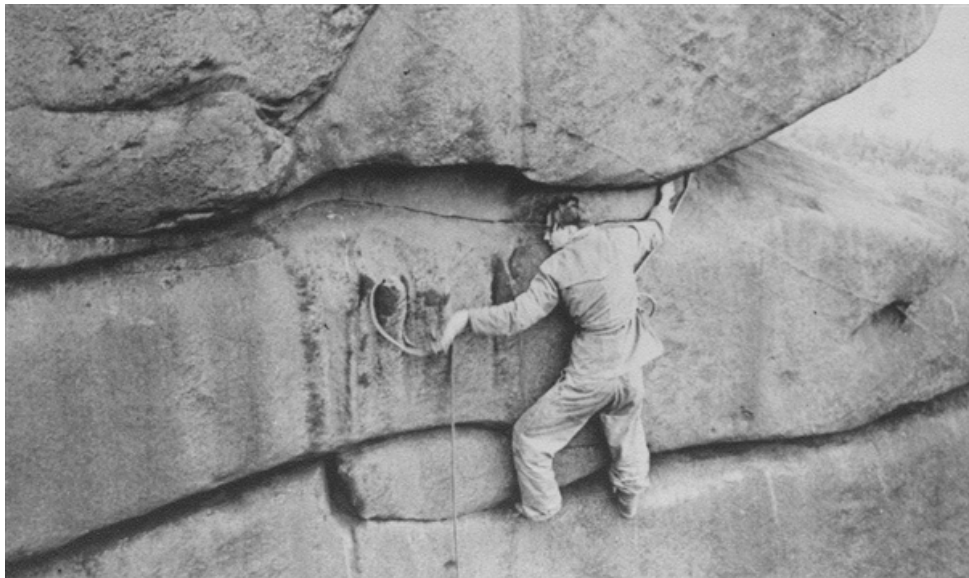
HSTR 467
History of Mountaineering
<http://mountainsandminds.org/hstr-467>

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Course Overview

This course focuses on the history of mountaineering, from the earliest times to the present. It's really a history of mountains, not mountaineering, but we will talk about that...

We will begin with discussions of the historiography of mountains and mountaineering, dive into a chronological focus on their history, 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 mountains and mountaineering, and to advance upon those approaches in our own research in history.



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

Robert Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind: Adventures in Reaching the Summit* (Vintage, 2003)
Heinrich Harrer, *The White Spider* (Tarcher, 1998)
Sherry Ortner, *Life and Death on Mt. Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan Mountaineering*
(Princeton, 2009)

Suggested Texts

Susan R. Schrepfer, *Nature's Altars: Mountains, Gender and American Environmentalism*
(University Press of Kansas, 2005)
Joseph Taylor, *Pilgrims of the Vertical: Yosemite Rock Climbers and Nature at Risk* (Harvard,
2010)

Additional Readings:

In addition to the above texts, I will also place additional readings on our course website according to the week in which they are due. Visit 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 science and technology 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 may be responsible for small in-class or take-home assignments that may include written analysis of the readings. A final exam will be given on **December 9th, 2:00 – 3:50.**

Final Projects:

A major objective of this course will be to create 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:

In and Out of Class Writing Assignments:	30%
Pick a Mountain	
Pick a Mountaineer	
Devil's Tower Resources	
Letter to Chiounard	
Final Exam:	30%
Final Project:	40%
Prospectus and Sources	
Research Paper	

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week One: Introduction

T Aug 27: Introduction; Verticality

Th Aug 29 Why We Climb?

John Long, "Wall Rats"

Isaak Rosenfeld, "Why Men Climb"

Julian Huxley, "Chamois"

Stacey Bare, "What Everest Climbers Really Meant By 'Because It's There'"

Week Two: Historiography of Mountains

T Sept 3: Resources and Databases

Pick a Mountain Assignment Due

Th Sept 5: Historiography of Mountains

Bigg, Aubin, and Felsch (eds.), "Introduction," *Science in Context* (2009), pp. 311-321.

Denis Cosgrove and Veronica della Dora (eds.), *High Places: Cultural Geographies of Mountains, Ice and Science*, pp. 1-16.

Reidy, "The Most Recent Orography"

Reidy, "At the Height of Empire: Halford John Mackinder and the Foundation of Geography in England," *Newsletter of the History of Science Society* 37, no. 2 (2008), pp. 24, 18-19.

Week Three: From Enlightenment ...

T Sept 10: The Invention of the Past

MacFarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*, pp. 1-102

Th Sept 12: The Invention of Deep Time

MacFarlane, *Mountains of the Mind*, pp. 103-198

Week Four: ... to the Golden Age

T Sept 17: Where I'm Coming From

Reidy, "Tides of History, Chapter Eight, "The Tides of Empire"

Reidy, "Mountains & Minds: Verticality and the Rise of Mountaineering"

Th Sept 19: Humboldtian Science

Week Five: Mountaineering and Physics

T Sept 24: Tyndall and Darwin in the Mountains

Reidy, "Coming Down, or How Mountaineering Changed Science," *The Alpine Journal*, pp. 53-62. (150th Anniversary Edition)

Reidy, "The Strange Deaths, Varied Lives, and Ultimate Resurrection of Professor Tyndall," *The Montana Professor*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring, 2013), pp. 12-14.

Th Sept 26: NO CLASS

Week Six: Climbing Guides and Guidebooks

T Oct 1: Climbing Guidebooks

Taylor, "Mapping Adventure: A Historical Geography of Yosemite Valley Climbing Landscapes," *Journal of Historical Geography* (2006), pp. 190-219.

Pick a Mountainer Assignment Due

Th Oct 3: Pat Callis (guest lecturer)

Callis, "Introduction and Climbing History," in Dockins, *Bozeman Rock Climbs*.

Week Seven: The American West

T Oct 8: Devil's Tower

Th Oct 10: Devil's Tower

Devil's Tower Assignment Due

Week Eight: Gender and Mountaineering

T Oct 15: Gender and Climbing

Susan R. Schrepfer, *Nature's Altars*

Th Oct 17: Women Climbers

Osius, "Fast Train"

<http://eveningsends.com/the-curse-of-the-first-female-ascent/>

Prospectus and Sources Assignment Due

Week Nine: The Eiger

T Oct 22: Heinrich Herrer

Herrer, *The White Spider*

Th Oct 24: The White Spider

Herrer, *The White Spider*

Check out these two movies/documentaries on the North Face of the Eiger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfcjH3W4Vbc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t4ceByXD1s>

Week Ten: The 8,000ers

T Oct 29: Annapurna and the quest for 8,000 meters

Ornter, *Life and Death on Mt. Everest*

Th Oct 31: The Rise of Himalayan Mountaineering

Ornter, *Life and Death on Mt. Everest*

Week Eleven: Non-Western Mountaineering

T Nov 5: Sherpas

Ornter, *Life and Death on Mt. Everest*

Th Nov 7: Chinese Mountaineering

Maggie Greene, "Performing Socialism at Altitude"

Week Twelve: Yosemite

T Nov 12: Camp 4 – Valley Uprising

Th Nov 14: Moralists and DirtBags

Joseph Taylor, “Moralists” and “Dirtbags,” *Pilgrims of the Vertical*.

Week Thirteen: Climbing and Environment

T Nov 19: An Environment Ethic

Th Nov 21: Chouinard Catalogue

1972 Chouinard Catalogue (<http://climbaz.com/chouinard72/chouinard.html>)
Chouinard, “Coonyard Mouths Off” and “Coonyard Mouths Off II”
“Patagonia’s Philosopher King,” *New Yorker*

Letter to Chouinard Assignment Due

Week Fourteen: Final Projects

T Nov 26: Final Projects Discussion

Th Nov 28: No Class Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen: Final Thoughts and Exam

T Dec 3: **Final Project Assignment Due**

Th Dec 5: Final Thoughts and Final Exam Review

Final Exam: Dec 9th, 2:00 – 3:50.