

## **HSTR 467: History of Mountaineering Final Exam Study Guide**

The final exam will require you to write short essays; you will need to incorporate material from your readings, the lectures, and our discussions. You should bring a blue book to the exam. No notes or books will be allowed.

### **Sample Essay Questions**

What does “orogeny” mean? What do I argue is the most recent orogeny? What do I argue is the value of looking through history vertically vs. horizontally?

According to Bigg et. al., how are mountains both a physical and metaphorical laboratory?

Who are the “wall rats” John Long talks about? What are they hauling up Yosemite, and why?

Why does Isaac Rosenfeld believe climbing is a branch of theology?

How does Julian Huxley see the “transience of the hills”?

Robert Macfarlane says his book is not a history of mountaineering, but rather a history of the imagination. What does he mean?

What is the importance of Burnet’s “Great Stone Book”? How was the “foundation of Western geology ... laid down in the mountains”?

What role does Macfarlane give to the sublime? What is it, and why is it so important in the late eighteenth century?

What role does Macfarlane ascribe to mapping? Who were the great mappers and why are they so important?

Who was Albert Smith and what was the significance of his show?

Why did Mallory go back to Everest for a third time? According to Stacy Bare, what did Everest Climbers really mean by stating “Because it is there?”

In “Tides of Empire,” how did I link empire and tidal theory? Why did a “vertical consciousness” arise?

How did I use verticality as an analytical approach in my book proposal to Chicago?

What were the political and geographic motives for Halford Mackinder to climb Mt. Kenya?

Why did Victorian mountaineers attempt to zone the mountain by gender? What role do I ascribe to the guides? How does all this affect our view of modern high-altitude physiology?

Explain how Joseph Taylor uses guidebooks as sources in his “Mapping Adventure.” How do guidebooks mirror the culture of their time? How do they ascribe ethics onto the mountain?

How does Susan Schrepfer use a vertical orientation to describe the conservation movement in America?

What is the relationship, according to Schrepfer, between mountains and our ideas of “wilderness”?

How does Susan Schrepfer use a vertical orientation to describe the conservation movement in America?  
What was the role of Alpine Clubs?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 plays a central role in Schrepfer's analysis. What is her take on it?

What is the "curse" of the first female ascent?

How – and most importantly, why – does Heinrich Harrer defend alpine mountaineering?

What does Harrer mean by a "European rope" and why is it so important to him?

Harrer argues that the first ascent of the Eiger "contributed a great deal to this conception of European and indeed international world-mountaineering." What "conception" is he talking about?

According to Joseph Taylor, who are the "moralists" and who are the "dirtbags"?

How does Taylor view Royal Robbins? What about Warren Harding? How were they attempting to "invent tradition" or "refine an aesthetic"?

According to Taylor, climbers climbed to "mark themselves via some astonishingly bourgeois principles," what he calls a "quest for subcommittees"? What does he mean, and what is the paradox involved?

In Sherry Ortner's view, how and on what levels are the Sherpas "constructed"? And, in turn, how do they participate in this process? With "intentions and desires" in mind, how – and most importantly, why – did the early British mountaineers characterize Sherpas? How (and why) did this change over time?

How does Ortner use "serious games" as a way to unpack "intentions and desires"?

How does Ortner use "big" and "small" people to explain the Sherpas' relationship with Western climbers?

According to Ortner, how has tourism and the commodification of mountaineering transformed Sherpa culture? Is it all negative? Is it all positive?

What significance does Ortner give to the counterculture movement? How did it transform the role of Sherpa women? The mentality of European climbers? The agency of the Sherpas themselves?

Where does Taylor place Chouinard's 1972 catalog within his narrative concerning aesthetics and tradition?

What is the conflict – the paradox – that Chouinard finds himself grappling with? What is his solution? What is your solution?

How does Chouinard suggest we "save the planet"?

Why are mountains important? Why are they important for a historian? Why teach a course on mountain history, rather than, say, a course on a specific nation state (e.g. French History), a specific time period (e.g. The Civil War), or a specific approach (e.g. Political History)?

Methodologically (that is, how we practice history, its method), how and why is verticality significant?