

Travel and History: US

History 394-08

Spring 2009
Instructor: Dr. Edwin Lyon
E-mail:elyon@tulane.edu

Tulane University
Tuesday 5:45-8:25 PM
www.edwinlyon.com

Course Description

This course is an exploration of the role of travel in history. We will investigate travel in history, travel as a way to learn history, and travel writing as an historical source.

Course Objectives

My major goal in this course is for you to develop an understanding of travel, with an emphasis on travel in the United States and by Americans. By the end of the course students will:

- Understand concepts, theories and methods useful in understanding travel
- Understand the history of exploration
- Understand how we can learn about history through travel
- Understand travel literature as a source for historians
- Develop the ability to apply knowledge of travel to contemporary life
- Complete a visit to a historic site, reflect on the visit, and prepare a written report and oral presentation on the visit.
- Appreciate the importance of travel in American history.

Readings

- Alain De Botton. *Art of Travel*. New York: Random House, 2004.
- Andrew Ferguson. *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America*, Grove/Atlantic, 2007.
- Wendy Martin, ed. *Colonial American Travel Narratives*. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Paper

A paper of approximately 10 double-spaced typed pages is required. Illustrations (photos, etc.) will enhance the paper but are in addition to the 10 page written requirement. The paper should be based on your visit to a historic site. It should integrate your site visit, reading about the site, class notes, and your research into primary/secondary sources into a well-written paper. The paper is due on April 28. You will make an oral presentation of your paper to the class on April 21 or April 28. The format of the presentation will depend on the number of students in the class and will be announced later.

The site might be a recognized historic site. Locations in or around New Orleans are acceptable but do not hesitate to visit some other area if you prefer. Please discuss your visit and projected paper topic with me before you make your selection.

Your paper should have two major components: a review of the site and a discussion relating it to the themes of this course. A paper lacking one of these elements is not acceptable.

Grades

Course grades will be based on:

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%
Paper	30%

Course Policies and Procedures

This course will be conducted by lecture with PowerPoint presentations to illustrate selected elements of the course. Videos will be shown to provide different views of travel.

Academic honesty. I expect that students will follow the requirements of academic honesty stated in the Tulane University catalog.

Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments

You should complete the reading assignments by the dates specified. The topics listed in the schedule will be covered in the course but not necessarily on the date shown if we move faster or slower than I anticipate.

January 13. Introduction to course

January 20. Travel in world history

- Reading: De Botton, *The Art of Travel*, 1-123

January 27. Approaches to the study of travel

- Reading: De Botton, *The Art of Travel*, 127-249

February 3. Travel in American history

- Reading: Martin. *Colonial American Travel Narratives*, vii-xviii, 1-48

February 10. Travel accounts as a way to learn history

- Reading: Martin. *Colonial American Travel Narratives*, 49-172

February 17. Travel Writing

- Reading: Martin. *Colonial American Travel Narratives*, 173-327

February 24. Mardi Gras break

March 3. Mississippi River travel

March 10. Midterm Exam

March 17. Visiting historic sites

- Reading: Andrew Ferguson. *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America*, ix-116

March 24. Spring break

March 31. American travelers abroad and Archaeological Tourism

April 7. Pilgrimage

April 14. Modern tourism

- Reading: Andrew Ferguson. *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America*, 117-279

April 21. Postmodern tourism and paper presentations

April 28. Paper Presentations and Conclusion

May 5. Final exam. 5:45-8:25 PM