



American Studies 250D
Regional Culture: NEW ENGLAND
Spring 2008

Prof. M. C. Lynn
W, F, 10:10-11:30
TLC 307

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the growth and development of regional culture in the northeastern United States from the eighteenth century to the present. Beginning with a consideration of the heritage of the Puritan settlers, the course proceeds to an examination of the Revolutionary experience, the industrial revolution, the New England Renaissance of the nineteenth century, and the transforming impact of immigration and migration on the region's population. This is an American Studies and Environmental Studies course, so we will spend a good deal of time exploring the impact of human settlement on the natural environment as well as the environmental challenges New England faces in the twenty-first century.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (available in the Skidmore Shop)
Jan Albers, HANDS ON THE LAND
Joseph Conforti, IMAGINING NEW ENGLAND
Andrew DelBanco, WRITING NEW ENGLAND
D. Dobbs and R. Ober, THE NORTHERN FOREST
Robert Gross, THE MINUTEMEN AND THEIR WORLD

WEB/CT READINGS**Regional Culture**

Stephen Nissenbaum, "New England as Region & Nation"

Early Industrialization

Old Sturbridge Village Documents

Lucy Larcom, Autobiography (excerpt)

Agriculture and Family

Mary Wilkins Freeman, "The Revolt of Mother,"

FILMS: "Over New England"

"The Shakers: Hands to Work and Hearts to God"

"The Sins of Our Mothers"

"The Revolt of Mother"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. On-time completion of all assigned readings, and participation in class discussion. We have a class e-mail list, AM250d-list, and thoughtful contributions here can also count towards your class work. This is a class in which we will learn from each other as well as from readings and assignments, so it will be especially important to attend class thoroughly prepared. More than three absences, for any reason, will have a negative impact on your grade for class participation, as will failure to prepare for class. Your class work will be graded, and will constitute approximately 20 % of your grade.
2. Midterm examination: in class on March 5; you will write short answers and short essays in response to my questions; this will amount to about 20 % of your final grade
3. Short Essays: two short essays, due in class on February 8, and February 22; you will receive an assignment sheet for each one; each is 10 % of your grade.
4. Oral presentation: during the last weeks of the term, you will research and present a fifteen-minute oral report on some aspect of New England culture since 1945, accompanied by an outline and an annotated bibliography. Reports will be graded for delivery, organization, content, and analysis—the report grade will count for approximately 20 % of your grade.
5. Final Essay: due on the last day of class (assignment sheet in advance); 20% of your grade

FINDING ME

My office is Learning Center 329; my extension is 5025. Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-noon, 3:30-4:30, Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30; if you have a class conflict please call or e-mail to schedule another time as I am on campus every day. You can also reach me through electronic mail, which I check daily; my username is mcl. In an emergency, you may call me at home at 587-0193.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Wednesday, January 23	Introduction: "Over New England"
Friday, January 25	Regional Culture: Nissenbaum (WebCT); Conforti, Intro
Wednesday, January 30	Puritan Roots: Delbanco: (Winthrop, 3-11; Danforth 12-17; Taylor, 21-22; Mather, 23-25; Harvard College, 203-206; Bradstreet, 115-116; Salem Court; 343-345; Appess, 346-355)
Friday, February 1	Eighteenth Century Culture: Gross, ch 1-3; Conforti, ch.1
Wednesday, February 6	Revolutionary War: Gross, 4 & 5; Conforti, ch. 2
Friday, February 8	New England's Evolving Climate; FIRST ESSAY DUE
Wednesday, February 13	Independence: Gross, 6 & 7; Conforti, ch. 3
Friday, February 15	Early Industrialization: OSV documents, Larcom (WebCT) Conforti, ch. 4
Wednesday, February 20	Nature: Delbanco: (Bryant, 32-35; Fuller, p. 49; Emerson, 36-48; Thoreau, 61-76)
Friday, February 22	Alternative Patterns: Andrews (WebCT) DelBanco: (Alcott 308-320 , Emerson, Ripley, & Hawthorne, 273-280) "Shakers: Hands to Work and Hearts to God" (film) SECOND ESSAY DUE
Wednesday, February 27	Race and Conflict: Delbanco: (Dubois, 140-144; Adams, 281-285; Webster, 288-296; Parker, 297-305; Howe, 306-307; Sumner, 223-228; Douglass, 356-357)
Friday, February 29	Immigration: DelBanco: (Antin, 361-372; Longfellow, 358-360; Frankfurter, 373-380)
Wednesday, March 5	MIDTERM
Friday, March 7	Rural New England: The Farm: Freeman (WebCT) "Revolt of Mother" (film); Albers, ch. 3

SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 19	Vermont Case Study: Nature & Native Peoples: Albers, ch. 1; review Delbanco: (Appess, 346-355)
Friday, March 21	Settling the 14 th state: Albers, ch. 2; "Sins of Our Mothers
Wednesday, March 26	Yankee Kingdom: Albers, ch. 4; DelBanco (Stowe, 159-164)
Friday, March 27	Old New England: Conforti, ch. 5
Wednesday, April 2	Tourism: Brown, pp. 169-218 (WebCT) Delbanco: (Jewett, 436-444; James, 445-446; White, 447-449; Allen, 450-451; Hall, 452)
Friday, April 4	TBA
Wednesday, April 9	The Northern Forest: New Hampshire Dobbs & Ober, part 1 ORAL REPORTS
Friday, April 11	The Northern Forest: Maine: Dobbs & Ober, pt. 2 ORAL REPORTS
Wednesday, April 16	The Northern Forest:Vermont: Dobbs & Ober, pt. 3 ORAL REPORTS
Friday, April 18	The Northern Forest: New York: Dobbs & Ober, pt. 4 ORAL REPORTS
Wednesday, April 23	Yuppification: Conforti, ch. 6 & epilogue,
Friday, April 27	The Future of New England; Albers, ch. 5, TBA FINAL ESSAY DUE