

History 2607 / ES 2447
Spring 2021
T-Th 9:30-10:50 am EST; Zoom

McMahon
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MAINE: A COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

This intermediate-level seminar takes a long and comparative view of the evolution of various Maine social, economic, and ecological communities—inland, hill country, and coastal—from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. The examination of those communities takes place through the historiographical perspectives of community history and environmental history. The course begins with the contact of European and Native American cultures; it examines the transfer of English and European agricultural traditions in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and explores the development of diverse geographic, economic, ethnic, and cultural communities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By focusing on communities and the environment rather than on institutions, the traditional focus of history, we have an opportunity to reconsider the causes, contingencies, and consequences that shaped the evolution, both changes and continuities, of the colony and state of Maine.

Course expectations: The seminar consists of two class meetings each week. All the assigned readings for each class should be completed by that class meeting. (The further readings listed in the *Reading Guide* are *not* required.) You are expected to attend all meetings of the seminar and to arrive prepared to participate in a discussion and analysis of the assigned readings [40% of final grade]. The *History 2607/ES 2447 Reading Guide* on Blackboard provides questions to help you focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to the assigned articles, either through e-reserve or an online Library database. If you miss a class, you are expected to write an informal (ungraded) but thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned readings for that class. You are encouraged to purchase the assigned books from the bookstore; a copy of each of the assigned books is on reserve in the library.

During the first half of the course, students will write two short (3 pages) papers on two of the three assigned “traveler’s tales” [together, 25% of final grade]. Each paper will present a focused historical discussion of an aspect of the environmental conditions and/or the prospects and development of communities in Maine as these were understood, described, and assessed by Christopher Levett in 1623-4, Timothy Dwight in 1796, 1797, and 1807, and Henry David Thoreau in 1846, 1853, and 1857. During the second half of the course, students will design and pursue a research project that focuses on the environmental history of a community in Maine, using both primary and secondary sources, submit a research paper prospectus, and present a short work-in-progress report [prospectus and presentation, 5%]. The research paper (12-15 pages) will be due on or before the scheduled final exam date for the course [in most cases, 30% of final grade]. For guidelines and exceptions, see the *Extension, Deadline, and Grading Policy* on the Blackboard course home page.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by The Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation described on the Academic Honesty and Plagiarism site at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/index.html>.

Texts: William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (1983, new edition 2003)
Alan Taylor, *Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier* (1990)
Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods* (1864), Introduction by Edward Hoagland (1988)

The *History 247 Reading Guide*, Electronic Reserve Reading Links, and other online resources can be found on *Blackboard Academic Suite* at <https://blackboard.bowdoin.edu/>, or at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/~smcmahon/courses/hist247/index.html>

WEEK 1

2/9 INTRODUCTION: THINKING HISTORICALLY

Robert Blackey, et al., Teaching Innovations Forum: "Thinking Historically in the Classroom," *AHA Perspectives* 33.7 (October 1995). (LINK to notes)

2/11 OVERVIEW: THE LAND OF NORUMBEGA: Doing Maine History

Alan Taylor, "Center and Peripheries: Locating Maine's History," *Maine History* 39:1 (Spring 2000), 3-16. (e-reserve)

John F. Battick, et al., "Opportunities in Maine History: A Panel," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 24:4 (1985), 392-415. (e-reserve)

Edwin H. Churchill, "Evolution of Maine Place Names," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 29:2 (1989), 66-90. (e-reserve)

WEEK 2

2/16 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Readings from Char Miller and Hal Rothman, eds., *Out of the Woods: Essays in Environmental History* (1997), xi-50, endnotes: 309-314. (e-reserve: Miller and Rothman, "Introduction, Part I: Ideas Matter")

Introduction, xi-xv.

Donald Worster, "The Ecology of Order and Chaos" (1989), 3-17.

Carolyn Merchant, "The Theoretical Structure of Ecological Revolutions" (1987), 18-27.

William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature" (1994) 28-50.

Kent Ryden, "Environment and Imagination in New England," *Maine History* 40:1 (Spring 2001), 70-75. (e-reserve)

2/18 COMMUNITY HISTORY

Thomas Bender, Ch. 1, "Introduction: The Meanings of Community," Ch. 2, "Social Theory and the Problem of Community," in *Community and Social Change in America* (1978), 3-43. (e-reserve)

Darrett Rutman, "Assessing the Little Communities of Early America," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 43:2 (1986), 163-178. (JSTOR)

Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper Prospectus in History (LINK)

The Travelers' Tales: Instructions for the Short Essays (LINK)

WEEK 3

2/23 THE FIRST TRAVELER'S TALE: CHRISTOPHER LEVETT'S VOYAGE

Roger Howell, "Introduction," in Roger Howell, ed., *Maine in the Age of Discovery: Christopher Levett's Voyage, 1623-24* (Maine Historical Society, 1988), 7-31. (e-reserve)

Christopher Levett, "A Voyage to New England, begun in 1623 and ended in 1624" in Roger Howell, ed., *Maine in the Age of Discovery: Christopher Levett's Voyage, 1623-24* (Maine Historical Society, 1988), 33-68. (e-reserve)

2/25 THE COAST: THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS

E.A. Churchill, "A Most Ordinary Lot of Men: The Fishermen at Richmond Island, Maine, in the Early Seventeenth Century," *New England Quarterly* 57 (1984), 184-204. (JSTOR)

Alaric Faulkner, "Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damariscove Island," *Historical Archaeology* 19.2 (1985), 57-86. (JSTOR)

Neill DePaoli, "Beaver, Blankets, Liquor, and Politics: Pemaquid's Fur Trade, 1614-1760," *Maine History* 33:3-4 (1993-4), 166-201. (e-reserve)

Friday, Feb. 25: First essay due

WEEK 4

3/2 LIBRARY TOUR: Zoom meeting with Barbara Levergood, Data Systems Librarian
review: *Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper Prospectus in History*

3/4 THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE CONTACT OF CULTURES:

William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (1983; new edition 2003). Note: read the Afterword from the 2003 edition.

James Eric Francis, Sr., "Burnt Harvest: Penobscot People and Fire," *Maine History* 44.1 (2008), 5-18. (e-reserve)

WEEK 5

3/9 THE ENCOUNTER IN MAINE AND NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Christopher Bilodeau, "Creating an Indian Enemy in the Borderlands: King Philip's War in Maine, 1675-1678," *Maine History* 47.1, (2013), 11-41. (e-reserve)

Emerson W. Baker and James Kences, "Maine, Indian Land Speculation, and the Essex County Witchcraft Outbreak of 1692," *Maine History* 40:3 (Fall 2001), 159-189. (e-reserve)

Mary Beth Norton, "George Burroughs and the Girls from Casco: The Maine Roots of Salem Witchcraft," *Maine History* 40:4 (Winter 2001-2002), 259-277. (e-reserve)

3/11 MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC: THE "NORTHEASTERN" FRONTIER

David Smith, "Maine's Changing Landscape to 1820," in Charles E. Clark et al., *Maine in the Early Republic: From Revolution to Statehood* (1988), 13-25. (e-reserve)

John W. Adams and Alice Bee Kasakoff, "Wealth and Migration in Massachusetts and Maine, 1771-1798," *Journal of Economic History* 45:2 (1985), 363-368. (JSTOR)

Jamie H. Eves, "'The Valley White with Mist': A Cape Cod Colony in Maine, 1770-1820," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 32:2 (1992), 74-107. (e-reserve)

WEEK 6

3/16 THE KENNEBEC PROPRIETORS AND THE BACKCOUNTRY SQUATTERS

Alan Taylor, *Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier* (1990)

3/18 Individual research project conferences

WEEK 7

3/23 SPRING BREAK

3/25 THE SECOND TRAVELER'S TALE: LANDSCAPES AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Timothy Dwight, "Preface," Vol. I, 1-11. (e-reserve)

Timothy Dwight, *Travels in New England and New York* (1821-1822), selections from "Journey to Berwick (1796)," Vol. I, 102, 301-310; selections from "Journey to the White Mountains (1797, [1807])," Vol. II, 30, 107-169. From Timothy Dwight, *Travels in New England and New York* [1821-1822], edited by Barbara Solomon, (1969). (e-reserve)

WEEK 8

3/30 RADICAL RELIGION AND UTOPIAN ASPIRATIONS IN MAINE, 1783-1920

Stephen Marini, "Religious Revolution in the District of Maine, 1780-1820," in Charles E. Clark et al., *Maine in the Early Republic: From Revolution to Statehood* (1988), 118-145. (e-reserve)

Jason Stone, "Till Shiloh Come," *Down East Magazine* 36.8 (March 1990), 44-48, 56. (e-reserve)

Wednesday, Mar. 30: Second essay due

4/1 RURAL LIFE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY MAINE

David C. Smith, et al., "Climate Fluctuations and Agricultural Change in Southern and Central New England, 1765-1880," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 21:4 (Spring 1982), 179-200. (e-reserve)

Marcie Cohen, "The Journals of Joshua Whitman, Turner, Maine, 1809-1846," *The Farm* (Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 1988), 49-59. (e-reserve)

Thomas Hubka, "Farm Family Mutuality: The Mid-Nineteenth-Century Maine Farm Neighborhood," *The Farm* (Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 1988), 13-23. (e-reserve)

Theresa Kerchner, "The Improved Acre: The Besse Farm as a Case Study in Land-clearing, Abandonment, and Reforestation," *Maine History* 44.1, (2008), 77-102. (e-reserve)

WEEK 9

4/6 THE MAINE WOODS

Geoffrey Paul Carpenter, "Deforestation in Nineteenth-Century Maine: The Record of Henry David Thoreau," *Maine History* 38:1 (Summer 1998), 2-35. (e-reserve)

Jamie H. Eves, "Shrunk to a Comparative Rivulet: Deforestation, Stream Flow, and Rural Milling in 19th-Century Maine," *Technology and Culture* 33:1 (Jan. 1992), 38-65. (e-reserve)

4/8 THE THIRD TRAVELER'S TALE: THE MAINE WOODS

Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods* (1864), Introduction by Edward Hoagland (1988)

Friday, April 9: research project prospectus due

WEEK 10

4/13 FARMING ON THE MAINE COAST

William N. Locke, "Research Note: The Rise and Demise of the Cattle Pound, Harpswell and Maine" *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 33:3-4 (1993-4), 210-221. (e-reserve)

David C. Smith, Victor Konrad, et.al. "Salt Marshes as a Factor in the Agriculture of Northeastern North America," *Agricultural History* 63 (1989), 270-294. (e-reserve)

4/15 COASTAL AND ISLAND ECONOMIES

film, Maine Independents: Our Fishing Heritage 60 minutes (PBS 1999)

Nancy Payne Alexander, "'Taking up the Slack': Penobscot Bay Women and the Netting Industry," *Maine History* 45.3 (2010), 259-280. (e-reserve)

Friday, April 16: Third essay due

WEEK 11

4/20 DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

Wayne M. O'Leary, Ch. 1, "The Rise of the Maine Sea Fisheries," Ch. 3, "The Industry at High Tide: The Fisheries," [skim Ch. 9, "Changing Markets in a Changing World,"] in O'Leary, *Maine Sea Fisheries: The Rise and Fall of a Native Industry, 1830-1890* (1996), 5-39; 80-111; [252-292; 328-333]; endnotes: 299-303, 306-309; appendices: 344-363. (e-reserve)

4/22 AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN MAINE

film: Anchor of the Soul 60 Minutes (1994)

William D. Barry, "The Shameful Story of Malaga Island," *Down East Magazine*, XXVII:4 (November 1980), 53-56, 83-86. (e-reserve)

Friday, April 23: Draft of introduction and a section of the research paper due

WEEK 12

4/27 IMMIGRATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: THE FRENCH-CANADIAN MIGRATION TO MADAWASKA AND THE MILL COMMUNITY IN LEWISTON

Beatrice C. Craig, "Early French Migrations to Northern Maine, 1785-1850," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 25:4 (1986), 230-247. (e-reserve)

Yves Frenette, "Understanding the French Canadians of Lewiston, 1860-1900: An Alternate Framework," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 25:4 (1986), 198-229. (e-reserve)

4/29 TOURISM AND ANTI-MODERNISM: THE SEARCH FOR OLDE NEW ENGLAND

Dona Brown, *Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the Nineteenth Century* (1995), Ch. 6, "The Problem of the Summer: Race, Class and the Colonial Vacation in Southern Maine, 1890-1910," 169-199, 241-244. (e-reserve)

David Richards, "An Eden Out of a Country Farm: Purity and Progress in the Landscapes of the Poland Spring Resort [1894]," *Maine History* 34.2 (1994), 136-153. (e-reserve)

Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century magazine reading:

Edwin Lawrence Godkin, "The Evolution of the Summer Resort" (1882-89), from *Reflections and Comments, 1865-1895* (1895), 295-308. (e-reserve)

Samuel Adams Drake, Ch. XXII, "In and Out of Bar Harbor," in Drake, *The Pine-Tree Coast* (1891), 304-319. (e-reserve)

WEEK 13

5/4 TOURISM, THE "WILDERNESS," AND WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

March O. McCubrey, "The Cultural Construction of the Maine Sporting Camps [1880-1914]," *Maine History* 34:2 (1994), 116-135. (e-reserve)

Richard R. Wescott, "Early Conservation Programs and the Development of the Vacation Industry in Maine, 1865-1900," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 27.1 (1987), 2-13. (e-reserve)

Richard W. Judd, "Reshaping Maine's Landscape: Rural Culture, Tourism, and Conservation, 1890-1929," *Journal of Forest History* 32 (1988), 180-190. (e-reserve)

5/6 CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

Christopher S. Beach, "Conservation and Legal Politics: The Struggle for Public Water Power in Maine, 1900-1923," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 32:3-4 (1993), 150-173. (e-reserve)

Richard W. Judd, "Saving the Fisherman as Well as the Fish: Conservation and Commercial Rivalry in Maine's Lobster Industry, 1872-1933," *Business History Review* 62 (Winter 1988), 596-625. (e-reserve)

WEEK 14

5/11 WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

5/13 WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

WEEK 15

5/18 CONCLUSION

William Cronon, "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," *Journal of American History* 78.4 (March 1992), 1347-1376. (JSTOR)

Sample: *Maine: A Guide 'Down East'*, American Guide Series, written by workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the state of Maine, sponsored by the Maine development commission (1937). (Internet Archive) *Note*: you might look at the entries for your community, or check the Table of Contents and Index for your research subject.

Research Paper Due: Monday, May 24, 5:00 p.m.