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 century and eighteenth centuries, and explores the development of diverse geographic, economic, ethnic, and cultural communities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Course requirements: The seminar consists of two class meetings each week. All of 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/ES 247 Reading Guide on Blackboard provides questions to help you focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to all of 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 three short (3 pages) papers on 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.

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

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://web.bowdoin.edu/faculty/s/smcmahon/courses/hist247/index.shtml.
WEEK 1
1/21  NO CLASS
Please read the brief notes on Thinking Historically from Robert Blackey, et al., Teaching Innovations Forum: “Thinking Historically in the Classroom,”*AHA Perspectives* 33.7 (October 1995). (LINK to notes)

1/23 OVERVIEW: THE LAND OF NORUMBEGA: Doing Maine History

WEEK 2
1/28 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
Introduction, xi-xv.

1/30 COMMUNITY HISTORY
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
2/4 THE FIRST TRAVELER’S TALE: CHRISTOPHER LEVETT’S VOYAGE

2/6 THE COAST: THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS
Alaric Faulkner, “Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damariscove Island,” *Historical Archaeology* 19.2 (1985), 57-86. (JSTOR)

*Friday, Feb. 8: First paper due*
WEEK 4
2/11  LIBRARY TOUR:  meet at Bookhenge on the first floor of H-L Library
review:  Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper Prospectus in History

2/13  THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE CONTACT OF CULTURES:
James Eric Francis, Sr., “Burnt Harvest:  Penobscot People and Fire,” Maine History 44.1 (2008),
5-18.  (e-reserve)

WEEK 5
2/18  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

2/20  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,
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
2/25  THE KENNEBEC PROPRIETORS AND THE BACKCOUNTRY SQUATTERS
Alan Taylor, Liberty Men and Great Proprietors:  The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine
Frontier (1990)

2/27  Individual research project conferences

WEEK 7
3/4  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

3/6  RADICAL RELIGION AND UTOPIAN ASPIRATIONS IN MAINE, 1783-1920
et al., Maine in the Early Republic:  From Revolution to Statehood (1988), 118-145.  (e-
reserue)
Jason Stone, “Till Shiloh Come,” Down East Magazine 36.8 (March 1990), 44-48, 56.  (e-reserve)

Friday, Mar. 8:  Second paper due
WEEK 8
3/25 RURAL LIFE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY MAINE
   David C. Smith, et al., “Climate Fluctuations and Agricultural Change in Southern and Central
   Marcie Cohen, “The Journals of Joshua Whitman, Turner, Maine, 1809-1846,” The Farm (Dublin
   Seminar for New England Folklore, 1988), 49-59. (e-reserve)
   Thomas Hubka, “Farm Family Mutuality: The Mid-Nineteenth-Century Maine Farm
   Neighborhood,” The Farm (Dublin Seminar for New England Folklore, 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)

3/27 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

Friday, Mar. 29: research project prospectus due

WEEK 9
4/1 THE THIRD TRAVELER’S TALE: THE MAINE WOODS

4/3 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)

Friday, Apr. 5: Third paper due

WEEK 10
4/8 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)

4/10 DEEP-SEA FISHERIES AND LOBSTER FISHING
   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)

WEEK 11
4/15 AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN MAINE
   film: Anchor of the Soul 60 Minutes (1994)
   (November 1980), 53-56, 83-86. (e-reserve)

Monday, April 15: Draft of introduction and first section of research paper due
4/17 IMMIGRATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: THE FRENCH-CANADIAN MIGRATION TO MADAWASKA AND THE MILL COMMUNITY IN LEWISTON

WEEK 12
4/22 TOURISM AND ANTI-MODERNISM: THE SEARCH FOR OLDE NEW ENGLAND

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)

4/24 TOURISM, THE “WILDERNESS,” AND WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

WEEK 13
4/29 WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

5/1 WORK-IN-PROGRESS REPORTS

WEEK 14
5/6 CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

5/8 CONCLUSION

Research Paper Due: Saturday, May 18, 5:00 p.m.