EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Appalachian Studies

APST-2060
Introduction to Appalachian Studies
Spring 2021

Syllabus

Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Ted Olson
Email: olson@etsu.edu
Phone: 423-439-4379
Office: 214 Nicks Hall

Instructor Availability
Instructor can be reached by email and will respond to questions within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on weekends

Meetings and Location
Classroom: online course available via D2L

Class Meeting Schedule: Weekly units will be accessible on the D2L site for this course, and students can work on each weekly unit at any time during that week

Course Information

Credit Hours
3 credit hours

Course Description and Purpose
An interdisciplinary, multi-media introduction to the study of the Appalachian region, focusing on the idea of Appalachia in American and world consciousness and on the treatment of the region in the social sciences, media, literature, and the arts. Through examining Appalachian regional issues and through comparing Appalachian people

with other cultural groups, we will explore problems of cultural identity, cultural assumptions, cultural change, and cultural manipulation.

Course Goals

Since Appalachia is part of the global community, our online discussions will help us understand issues that affect our entire planet today.

Course Objectives

1. To examine the problems in defining Appalachia
2. To trace the evolution of the concept of Appalachia from the seventeenth century to the present
3. To analyze treatment of Appalachia in social sciences, media, literature, and the arts
4. To define and examine such processes as cultural identity, cultural assumptions, and cultural hegemony
5. To compare Appalachia with other mountain cultures worldwide and with mainstream American culture

Major Topics

Poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation by extractive industries, agricultural sustainability, health care, drug abuse, educational inequity, and stereotyping.

Course   Requirements

Textbooks and Readings

1. James Alexander Thom, *Follow the River*
2. Richard Straw and Tyler Blethen, *High Mountains Rising*
3. Denise Giardina, *Storming Heaven*

Technical Requirements

Since this is a completely asynchronous online course, students are expected to have access to a strong internet connection.

Course Policies and Expectations

Classroom and Communication Policies

Email Communication

All communications related to this course should be conducted using official ETSU email accounts. The ETSU email policy requires all faculty communication with students regarding ETSU business be conducted via the official ETSU email account.

Attendance and Participation

1. As a matter of academic responsibility, each student is expected to attend class regularly, keep up with reading and written assignments, and contribute to class discussions. Participation in all class activities is important and will be factored into the final grade. Lack of participation, lack of preparation, and/or irregular attendance will factor negatively in grade computation, according to ETSU policy.
2. Each student will write an original mid-term exam essay interpreting reading assignments, class discussions, lectures, and films through the halfway point of the course.
3. Each student will write three short (each should be two pages in length, typed and double-spaced) reaction papers to assigned readings, in-class discussions, and/or media presentations. These reaction papers should contain critical analysis of one major theme.
4. Each student will write at least three "quality" Discussion Board postings per week throughout the semester (each posting should be at least 150 words in length and can certainly be longer). A few topics will be assigned by the instructor; most topics should be the choice of the student.
5. Each student will complete a term project on a selected topic worked out in consultation with the instructor. Term projects can include multi-media components, but all projects must include a written component of no less than 7 pages (typed and double-spaced).
6. Each student will post a term project proposal on D2L in the appropriate place, and each student should write reactions to other students' project proposals.
7. Each student will write an original comprehensive final exam essay interpreting reading assignments, class discussions, lectures, and films covered throughout the semester.
8. All assignments must be submitted before or on the given due date. All late work will be assessed a grade penalty.
9. There can be no grade extensions; students must hand in all their work for this class by the due dates listed on this syllabus and on the D2L page for this class.

10. Students are responsible for understanding and avoiding plagiarism. The consequences of plagiarism are serious. Proven willful plagiarism will result in failure of the course and may include dismissal from the university. The *MLA Handbook* defines plagiarism as repeating "as your own someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim........ Other forms of plagiarism include repeating someone else's particularly apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgment, paraphrasing another person's argument as your own, and presenting another's line of thinking ......as though it were your own."

Testing Policy

The final exam will be an open-book exam based on one question emailed to the students in advance of the deadline. There is no page limit for this exam: please write until you say everything you can say about the essay topic. Please cite all sources.

Late and Missing Submission Policy

There can be no grade extensions; students must hand in all their work for this class by the time and day designated by ETSU as the time-slot for the final exam for this class.

Grading Policy

Coursework will be evaluated according to the distribution listed below:

Reaction Papers (3)	15%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Term Project	25%
Discussion Boards	10%
Final Exam	25%
Term Project Proposal	5%
Class Participation	5%
	100%

GRADING SCALE:

A   94-100
A-   90-93
B+   87-89
B   84-86
B-   80-83
C+   77-79
C   74-76
C-   70-73
D+   67-69
D   64-66
D-   60-63
F   0-59

Course Schedule

Week One: Introduction to the Appalachian Region
Introduce People in Class; Review Syllabus; Class Overview; Review Maps

Week Two: Native Americans in Appalachia: The Cherokee Experience
View and Discuss Part One of *The Appalachians* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website);
View and Discuss *The Trail of Tears* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website)

Week Three: Problems of Defining Appalachia
Read and Discuss *Follow the River*

Week Four: Early European Perceptions of the Region
View and Discuss *Follow the River* (streamable on YouTube);
Read and Discuss Chapters 1-5 of Straw/Blethen

Week Five: Appalachia as Frontier: Wilderness vs. Civilization
Reaction Paper #1 Due;
View and Discuss Part Two of *The Appalachians* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website);
Read and Discuss Chapters 6-9 of Straw/Blethen

Week Six: Appalachian History and Culture
Read and Discuss Chapters 10-14 of Straw/Blethen;
View and Discuss *David Holt—The Stories and Songs of Appalachia* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website);
View and Discuss *Appalachian Journey* (streamable on YouTube)

Week Seven: Industrialization of the Region
View and Discuss Part Three of *The Appalachians* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website);
Mid-Term Exam Essay Due

Week Eight: Appalachia, Romanticism, and Local Color
View and Discuss *Strangers and Kin (*streamable on Appalshop website)

Week Nine: Appalachian Migration
View and Discuss *The Dollmaker* (streamable on YouTube);
View and Discuss Appalachian Migration

Week Ten: Unionization and Labor Issues in Appalachia
Discussion of Coal Mining;
View and Discuss *Harlan County USA* (streamable on YouTube)

Week Eleven: Coal Mining in Appalachia
Reaction Paper #2 Due;
Read and Discuss Giardina;
View and Discuss *The Mine Wars* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website)

Week Twelve: Ethnic Diversity in Appalachia
View and Discuss *Matewan* (student will need to access this film at a library or via a fee-based film repository);
View and Discuss *Muslims in Appalachia: Islam in Exile* (streamable via Films on Demand on ETSU's Sherrod Library website)

Week Thirteen: Power and Powerlessness in Appalachia
Reaction Paper #3 Due; View and Discuss *Rich Land, Poor People* (streamable on YouTube);
View and Discuss *Stranger with a Camera (*streamable on Vimeo)

Week Fourteen: The Appalachian Environment
View and Discuss *The Last Mountain* (streamable on YouTube);

Week Fifteen: Wrapping Up
Oral Reports
Final Exam, Term Project, and Journals Due

Student Services and Technical Resources

Student Services

The [ETSU Services webpage](#) includes a comprehensive list of services available to all ETSU students.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Room 326, telephone 423-439-8346. [Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information](#).

Technical Resources

Help Desk

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the [Help Desk website](#), call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. Phone: 423-439-4648 Email: itshelp@etsu.edu

Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help

Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the [D2L Help Student Home](#). If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft Office Software

Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University's Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the [Office 365 page of the ITS Help Desk website](#).

Turnitin Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin is a plagiarism detection service available to students and faculty at ETSU. This tool compares student written work against a comprehensive database of other work as well as various internet sources. Faculty may employ this service for some or

all written assignments, in order to help students learn to cite sources accurately and to ensure academic integrity. Learn more on the [Turnitin home page](#).

ETSU Technical Resources

Many other technical resources can be found on the [Online Help webpage](#).
University Information

Syllabus Attachment

The [ETSU syllabus attachment](#) includes important material such as permits and overrides, advisement, hours, dates and other ETSU information.

ETSU Catalogs

[Current Undergraduate Catalog](#)
[Current Graduate Catalog](#)