Frontiers:
the World’s Long Encounter with Europe

Anthropology 542 / Geography 605
(16:070:542:01) (16:450:605:02)

Monday 10:55-1:55 in the Biological Resources Engineering Map Lab

Professor David McDermott Hughes
Office: 204 Cook Office Building (Cook)
Office hours: Thursday 11:00-12:30
Voice mail: 732-932-9153 extension 361
Email: dhughes@aesop.rutgers.edu

If you do not already know where the Biological Resources Engineering Map Lab (my lab) is, please contact me for a map to this location. It is very difficult to find. Also, I must apologize for having switched the time and place of the course. I did so in order to accommodate students whose TA jobs conflicted with the earlier time of the course.

Course description
This course addresses a spatial problematic at the intersection of Anthropology, Geography, Literature, and History: how do self-described moderns encounter, change, and become changed by hinterlands beyond their conventional horizons? First, of course, they must invent those fields as spaces and projects. In this connection, readings will touch upon various European notions of the tropics, the New World, and the Global South – themselves adapted in the course of exploration, conquest, conservation, development, and tourism. More conceptually, the course will use the frontier as a subject “to think with.” We will probe racism, nature, improvement, and visual culture. Throughout, the course will encourage comparative and synthetic thinking between continents and historical periods. Even wild speculations will find an eager audience. Readings assume a degree of knowledge of cultural and spatial theory and, equally important, an engagement with contemporary political debates. What is at stake in those debates?: the authority of European-derived societies and classes to modernize, rescue, and discipline Others both near and far.

Reading
All of the reading available as hard or electronic copies through the library system. Where only a hard copy is available, copyright restrictions have prevented the library from posting the selection to the web. Regarding the purchase of books, graduate students no longer seem to patronize the Cook/Douglass Coop Store. I believe you all
find better deals at Amazon or at used book sites (eg. The Advanced Book Exchange). Therefore, you are on your own! Buy as many or as few books as you would like. Based on cost, importance to the field, and pages assigned, I would suggest the titles below. In parentheses, you will find the prices on Amazon – for those available there – as of July 2007.


**Other requirements**

By 17 December, each student will submit a term paper or equivalent writing project. Each student will also present the work of a fellow student in draft form on either 10 December.

**Grading**

The grade rests on (1) in-class participation, (2) the presentation of reading material during one of the seminars, (3) the presentation of another student’s draft final paper at the end of the course, and (4) the student’s own final paper.
Syllabus

Week 2: introduction (10 Sept.)

Week 3: Creating the frontier (17 Sept.)

Recommended:

*There will be no seminar on 24 September. I will be attending a conference.*

Totalities of Home and Away

Week 5: Othering people (1 October)

Recommended:
Week 6: Othering territory (8 October)

Recommended:

Week 7: Nature/Race (15 October)

Recommended:

Compromise and Ambiguity

Week 8: Third Ways (22 October)

Recommended:

**Week 9: Biological Negotiations (29 October)**


Recommended:


**Week 10: Frozen societies (5 November)**


Recommended:


Practical Fields of Work and Pleasure

Week 11: Improvement (12 November)

Recommended:

Week 12: Tourism and looking in general (19 November)

Recommended:

Closing the Long Encounter

Week 13: Colonialism made normal (26 November)

Recommended
Week 14: Belonging? (3 December)

Recommended:

Week 15: Student paper presentations (10 December)

*Papers are due via email by 5pm Monday 17 December.*