

Spring 2002

Frontiers

Anthropology 552 / Geography 606

Professor David McDermott Hughes

Office: 204 Cook Office Building (Cook)

Office hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

Voice mail: 932-9153 extension 361

Email: dhughes@aesop.rutgers.edu

The course meets Tuesdays 2:50-5:50 in Biology 205 (Douglass)

Course description

Frontiers lie just beyond the horizon of the social, economic, political units we are used to studying. This course will explore the ways in which these areas and their inhabitants come to participate in metropolitan culture and political economy. Readings will focus on Southern Africa, North America, and Australia. We will address such topics as contact, genocide, colonialism (external and internal), acculturation, nationalism, development, and environmental conservation. Throughout, we will ask the question: To what extent do frontiers assimilate to core societies, and to what extent do they remain permanently exploited hinterlands? The first part of the course – entitled “progress” – reviews anthropological and historical accounts of frontiers’ incorporation into colonizing societies. Ranging from proletarianization, to commoditization, to out-and-out genocide, these narratives suggest linear, irreversible change. Thus, the frontier becomes “civilized,” even at the cost of its aboriginal peoples. The second part of the course turns such notions of forward movement on their head. Such accounts describe the frontier as permanently and deliberately marginalized from core societies. From this perspective, colonizers, elites, or states neither destroy nor develop frontiers-people or their landscapes. Instead, core societies freeze hinterlands in time and space, extracting and enslaving in a predatory fashion. In short, the frontier either progresses or remains in a state of permanent marginalization. Or a particular frontier at a particular time arrives at some compromise between these extremes. What is at stake? – they way in which we live today in plural societies, riven with differences of class, race, and custom.

Reading

All the readings in the required (non-indented) parts of the syllabus are on reserve as hard copies in the Chang Library on Cook Campus. They are also all on electronic reserve. The books listed below are available for purchase at the Cook/Douglas Coop Store.

- Carney, Judith A. 2001. *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press.
- Gordon, Robert. 1997. *Picturing Bushmen: the Denver Africa Expedition of 1925*. Athens, Ohio: University of Ohio Press (143pp.)
- Hartz, Louis. 1964. *The Founding of New Societies: Studies in the History of the United States, Latin America, South Africa, Canada, and Australia*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Kuletz, Valerie. 1998. *The Tainted Desert: Environmental Ruin in the American West*. New York: Routledge.
- Ranger, Terence. 1999. *Voices from the Rocks: Nature, Culture, and History in the Matopos Hills of Zimbabwe*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press.
- Redfield, Peter. 2000. *Space in the Tropics: From Convicts to Rockets in French Guiana*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Thongchai Winichakul. 1994. *Siam Mapped: a History of the "Geo-Body" of a Nation*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.

Unfortunately, a number of important texts are out of print (such as, Carter, Obeyesekere, and Coetzee). I would recommend buying used copies of these on the web at www.abebooks.com.

Other requirements

By 7 May, each student will submit a term paper or equivalent writing project. Each student will also present that work in draft form on either 23 or 30 April.

“Progress”

Week 1: introduction

Class will meet on Friday 25 January 1pm in 226 Cook Office Building.

Week 2: Creating space (29 Jan)

Carter, Paul. 1988. *The Road to Botany Bay: an Exploration of Landscape and History*. New York: Knopf. Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-135).

Recommended

- Burnett, D. Graham. 2000. *Masters of all they Surveyed: Exploration, Geography, and a British El Dorado*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- Noyes, J.K. 1992. *Colonial Space: Spatiality in the Discourse of German Southwest Africa, 1884-1915*. Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers.

Week 3: Contact (5 Feb)

- Todorov, Tzvetan. 1982. *The Conquest of America*. (trans. Richard Howard) New York: Harper and Row. Chapter 2.
- Obiysekere, Gananath. 1992. *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook: European Mythmaking in the Pacific*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press. Chapters 1-3, 6-8.

Recommended:

- Dening, Greg. 1995. *The Death of William Gooch: a History's Anthropology*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.
- Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1966. *The Savage Mind*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sahlins, Marshall. 1985. *Islands in History*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- 1995. *How "Natives" Think, About Captain Cook, for Example*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Parsons, Neil. 1998. *King Khama, Emperor Joe, and the Great White Queen: Victorian Britain through African Eyes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 4: Settlers and settler-led development (12 Feb)

- Lamar, Howard and Leonard Thompson, eds. 1981. *The Frontier in History: North America and Southern Africa Compared*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-42).
- Hughes, David McDermott. 2001. "Rezoned for business: how eco-tourism unlocked black farmland in eastern Zimbabwe." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 1(4): 575-99.
- Smith, Neil. 1996. *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York and London: Routledge. Chapters 6-7 (pp. 119-64).

Recommended:

- Frederickson, George M. 1981. *White Supremacy: a Comparative Study in American and South African History*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Wallace, Anthony F.C. 1999. *Jefferson and the Indians: the Tragic Fate of*

the First Americans. Cambridge, MA: the Belknap Press.
Schmink, Marianne and Charles H. Wood, eds. 1984. *Frontier Expansion in Amazonia*. Gainesville: Univ. of Florida Press.

Week 5: Cadastral politics (19 Feb)

Carter, Paul. 1988. *The Road to Botany Bay: an Exploration of Landscape and History*. New York: Knopf. Chapter 5 (pp. 136-71).

Thongchai Winichakul. 1994. *Siam Mapped: a History of the "Geo-Body" of a Nation*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 20-140).

Vanderveest, Peter and Nancy Peluso. 1995. "Territorialization and state power in Thailand." *Theory and Society* 24(3): 385-426.

Sparke, Matthew. 1995. "Between demythologizing and deconstructing the map: Shawnadithit's New-found-land and the alienation of Canada." *Cartographica* 32: 1-21.

Recommended:

Cronon, William. 1983. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang. Chapters 4,5, and 8.

Hughes, David McDermott. 2001. "Cadastral politics: the making of community forestry in Zimbabwe and Mozambique." *Development and Change* 32(4): 741-68.

Kain, R.J.P., and E. Baigent. 1992. *The Cadastral Map in the Service of the State*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.

Sahlins, Peter. 1989. *Boundaries: the Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 6: Ecological conversion (26 Feb.)

Crosby, Alfred. 1972. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 64-122).

Carney, Judith A. 2001. *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press (179pp).

Recommended

Beinart, W. and P. Coates. 1995. *Environment and History: The Taming of Nature in the USA and South Africa*. London: Routledge. Selected chapters.

Kirch, Patrick V. 1992. *The Archaeology of History*. Vol 2 of Patrick V. Kirch and Marshall Sahlins. *Anahulu: the Anthropology of History in the Kingdom of Hawaii*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. Chapter 5.

Mutwira, Roben. 1989. "Southern Rhodesian Wildlife Policy (1890-1953): a

Question of Condoning Game Slaughter?" *Journal of Southern African Studies* 15(2): 250-62.

Davis, Mike. 1999. *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster*. New York: Vintage. Chapter 5.

Worster, Donald. 1994. *Nature's Economy: a History of Ecological Ideas*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press. Chapter 13 ("The value of a varmint," pp. 258-90).

Week 7: Belonging? (5 March)

Coetzee, J.M. 1988. *White Writing: on the Culture of Letters in South Africa*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-4, 6-7 (158 pp).

Recommended:

Crapanzano, Vincent. 1985. *Waiting: the Whites of South Africa*. New York: Vintage.

Lepore, Jill. 1998. *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. New York: Knopf. Chapter 7

Failure to Progress

Week 8: Permanent marginality (12 March)

Redfield, Peter. 2000. *Space in the Tropics: From Convicts to Rockets in French Guiana*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Recommended:

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 1993. *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of-the-Way Place*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Spring break (no meeting 19 March)

Week 9: Frozen societies (26 March)

Hartz, Louis. 1964. *The Founding of New Societies: Studies in the History of the United States, Latin America, South Africa, Canada, and Australia*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Pp 1-122 and Chapter 6, 7 or 8.

Kopytoff, Igor. 1987. "The internal African frontier: the making of an African political

culture.” In Igor Kopytoff, ed. *The African Frontier: the Reproduction of Traditional African Societies.* Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press. Pp. 3-84.

Recommended:

Turner, Frederick Jackson. 1961 [1893]. “The significance of the frontier in American history.” In Ray Allen Billington, ed. *Frontier and Section: Selected Essays.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Kennedy, Dane. 1987. *Islands of White: Settler Society and Culture in Kenya and Southern Rhodesia, 1890-1939.* Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press.

Week 10: Human zoos (2 April)

Gordon, Robert. 1997. *Picturing Bushmen: the Denver Africa Expedition of 1925.* Athens, Ohio: University of Ohio Press (143pp.)

Wilmsen, Edwin. 1995. “Primitive politics in sanctified landscapes: the ethnographic fictions of Laurens van der Post.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 21(2): 201-23.

Recommended

van der Post, Laurens. 1958 *The Lost World of the Kalahari.* New York: William Morrow & Company.

Week 11: Institutionalized wilderness (9 April)

Mackenzie, John. 1988. *The Empire of Nature: Hunting, Conservation, and British Imperialism.* Manchester, UK: Manchester Univ. Press. Chapters 9-10 (pp. 225-94).

Ranger, Terence. 1999. *Voices from the Rocks: Nature, Culture, and History in the Matopos Hills of Zimbabwe.* Bloomington: University of Indiana Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2, 5-6, 9 (154pp).

Recommended:

Carruthers, Jane. 1994. “Dissecting the myth: Paul Kruger and the Kruger National Park.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 20(2): 263-83.

Grove, Richard. 1995. *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens, and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Neumann, Roderick P. 1998. *Imposing Wilderness: Struggles over Livelihood and Nature Preservation in Africa.* Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Fairhead, James and Melissa Leach. 1996. *Misreading the African Landscape: Society and Ecology in a Forest-Savanna Mosaic.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Week 12: Sacrifice zones (16 April)

Kuletz, Valerie. 1998. *The Tainted Desert: Environmental Ruin in the American West*. New York: Routledge. Chapters 1-4, 9-10 (165 pp).

Ishiyama, Norico. "Environmental justice and American Indian tribal sovereignty: case study of a land-use conflict in Skull Valley, Utah." *Antipode* forthcoming.

Recommended:

Solnit, Rebecca. 1994. *Savage Dreams: a Journey into the Hidden Wars of the American West*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

Patton, Phil. 1998. *Dreamland: Travels inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51*. New York: Velard.

Week 13: Student paper presentations (23 April)

Week 14: Student paper presentations (30 April)

7 May - Papers due