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Fall 9-2015

HONR 120.89: Introduction to Honors - Missoula as Place

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HC 120 89, DHC 117
University of Montana
Autumn, 2015
"Missoula as Place"
Jim Sears, Geosciences Department
CHCB 362, x 5251, Office hrs MW 9-10 am
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This course will investigate the geologic underpinnings of Missoula and ask why it is here and where it is going. I will post essays on the Moodle site for you to read about the topic of each upcoming week.

We will sometimes go for walks around campus to investigate our geologic setting first-hand, and sometimes go on a city bus to different locations. You should be a little flexible with your schedule, should we sometimes get back after 5 pm.

We will spend some time discussing John Vaillant's "The Tiger". Having completed three geologic expeditions to Siberia to test my hypothesis that a large crustal block in Siberia rifted off the western edge of North America about 500 million years ago, I would like to share my impressions of the Russian land and its people in the context of the book.

Students will write a one-page essay comparing some aspect of the book to our environment here in western Montana. You are encouraged to enter the DHC essay contest.

Students will form groups of three to engage in civic service in Missoula and each group will present, toward the end of the semester, a 20-minute powerpoint talk and a formal one-page abstract on its activity. Submit your abstract to me, electronically, one or two weeks before your presentation. I will edit and return it to you. Then distribute your group's abstract to the class when you give your presentation.

There are numerous avenues for civic engagement. One is Missoula's Online Volunteer Job Database (www.volunteermisoula.org). Click on "Want to Volunteer" to find current projects. Or try Office for Civic Engagement (www.umt.edu/oce) - just downstairs in DHC. They organize the popular "Service Saturday" program (service.saturday@mso.umt.edu).

The "Volunteer Fair" will be held September 15 and 16 in the UC atrium from 10 AM to 2 PM both days. About 30 different nonprofit organizations host volunteer recruitment tables during the fair to talk with students about volunteer opportunities. This is a great chance for students to learn about the variety of nonprofit organizations that do programs and services in Missoula, and potentially connect with an organization to do a service project during the semester.

Grades will be based on the Tiger essay (30%), class presentation (30%), abstract (30%), and class participation (attendance required)(10%).

We will do 3 presentations per class meeting on Nov. 18 and Dec. 2 and 9.

(Approximate schedule on back)

Approximate Schedule:

Sep	2	Introductions
	9	Old Main - Geologic cross-roads
	16	Kim Williams Trail - Old ways and Hell's Gate
	23	M Trail - What David Thompson saw
	(26)	Homecoming - Saturday
	30	Front Street - Mullan's Road
Oct	7	Higgins Avenue - Western Montana National Bank
	(10)	Saturday field trip to Garnet ghost town
	14	Railroads come to Missoula
	21	"The Merc" - Hammond's Empire
	(25)	"Stories and Stones" - Sunday, Missoula City Cemetery
	28	Lake Missoula
Nov	4	Clark Fork River and Missoula groundwater
	11	Veteran's Day Holiday
	18	Student Presentations (3)
	25	Thanksgiving Travel Day - no class
Dec	2	Student Presentations (3)
	9	Student Presentations (3)

Learning outcomes: Students will learn about the geologic setting of Missoula and how it has influenced the growth and character of the city.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Sept 21, 2015 - Last day to withdraw w/o petition.