

History 397S: Public History Workshop: Athol and The Millers River

Spring 2006
Tu 2:30-4:50, Th 2:30-3:45
office hours W 1:30-3:30 and by appt.

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This community service learning course teaches research and presentation skills useful for working in any local community environmental center or museum. Organized into teams of four, you will be developing educational materials on the environmental history of Athol and the Millers River for the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, a central Massachusetts town approximately 40 minutes northeast of Amherst. Using Athol and the Millers River as our case study, we will study the interaction of human and natural communities from the 1700s to the present, including the environmental impact of early European settlement, industrialization, population growth; and efforts to clean up pollution. Through research in the library, computer lab, and in the field, you will be introduced to techniques for learning about the built and natural landscape, past and present, such as the use of historical maps and public records, mapping software, and oral history interviewing. You will also practice techniques for communicating what you have learned to the public through the development of a website and oral presentation. Please note that several class trips to Athol are incorporated into the syllabus, and you should expect to make at least one additional trip on your own or with your team.

Course requirements: two short writing assignments based on workshops (30%); contribution to class discussion (20%), contribution to group presentation and website project (30%); and final reflective paper (20%).

Books on reserve and available for purchase at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street, Amherst, MA

Allen Young, *North of Quabbin Revisited*

William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*

Theodore Steinberg, *Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England*

John Bodnar, *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*

Additional books on reserve

Dick Chaisson, *Hometown Chronicles* (1985)

William Lord, *History of Athol* (1953)

Inventory of City and Town Archives of Massachusetts. No. 14 Worcester County. Vol II Athol. Prepared by the Historical Records Survey, Division of Community Service Programs, Works Projects Administration (1941). Has terrific index.

Class Schedule

Tues 1/31 Introduction: Nature, History, Landscape
Thurs 2/2 The Millers River Watershed (Jerry Schoen, UMass Environmental
Institute)

D. Glassberg, "Interpreting Landscapes," in *Public History and the Environment* ed. M. Melosi and P. Scarpino (2004), pp. 23-36.

A. Young, *North of Quabbin Revisited* (2003), "Athol," pp. 30-42; "Millers River," pp. 183-87.

Millers River Environmental Center (<http://www.millersriver.net>), "Slide Show: Windows on Main. "

2/7 Trip to Athol: Tour town and discuss project (Dave Small and Sue Cloutier, Millers River Environmental Center)

2/9 Athol & the Millers River to 1800: Native and European landscapes

W. Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*, pp. 3-170.

C. Merchant, "Farm Ecology: Subsistence versus the Market," in *Ecological Revolutions: Nature, Gender, Science in New England*, pp. 149-74. (ereserve)

A. Young, *North of Quabbin Revisited*, "History Trail," pp. 147-52.

W. Lord, *History of Athol* (1953), "That New Township," "First Settlement," "Military Background," pp. 9-32.

D. Chaisson, *Hometown Chronicles* (1985), "Indian Retreat Across Millers River," pp. 59-63.

N. Salisbury, "Introduction: Mary Rowlandson and her Removes," in *Sovereignty and Goodness of God by Mary Rowlandson* (1997), 1-60. See also pp. 72, 78-80, 93-94, 105.

Indian Deeds (handout)

2/14 Workshop: Historical Maps and other Records in UMass Library (Rob Cox, UMass Special Collections & Archives)

2/16 Athol & the Millers River in the 19th century: Industrialization

Hugh M. Raup, "The View from John Sanderson's Farm: A Perspective for the Use of the Land," *Forest History* 10 (April 1966): 2-11. (ereserve)

D. Foster & J. O'Keefe, *New England Forests Through Time: Insights from the Harvard Forest Dioramas* (2000), pp. 3-20.

J. Cumbler, "The Land, the River, the People" and "From Milling to Manufacturing", in *Reasonable Use: The People, the Environment, and the State, New England, 1790-1930*, pp. 11-48.

T. Steinberg, *Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England*, pp. 1-76, 166-239.

A. Young, *North of Quabbin*, "Starrett's," pp. 339-42.

W. Lord, *History of Athol*, "Industry," pp. 269, 297-301, 310-25;

- 2/21 No class (UMass on Monday schedule)
2/23 Writing assignment #1 due: map analysis (hand in and discuss).

- 2/28 Workshop: Mapping with GIS, (Rick Taupier, UMass Environmental Institute)
3/2 Athol & the Millers River in the early 20th century: Family and Community

W. Lord, *History of Athol*, "Highways and Byways," pp. 240-56; "Organizations," 512-45.

A. Young, *North of Quabbin*, "French Canadians," 129-30; "Lithuanians," 177, 377.

D. Chaisson, *Hometown Chronicles*, "Italian Mudhut Colony," pp. 37-9; "Memorial Building," 39-43; "The Actors Retreat, 111-17; "Ku Klux Klan, pp. 118-22; "Legend of Silver Lake" 142-7.

G. Brault, "Immigration Phase," in *French Canadian Heritage in New England* (1986), pp. 51-85.

J. Bodnar, *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*

R. & H. Lynd, "Childrearing," in *Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture* (1929), pp. 131-52. (ereserve)

R. Rosenzweig, "Middle Class Parks and Working Class Play: The Struggle Over Recreational Space in Worcester, MA, 1870-1910," *Radical History Review* 21 (Fall 1979): 31-48. (ereserve)

K. Blee, "Women in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan Movement," *Feminist Studies* 17 (Spring 1991): 57-77.

- 3/7 Workshop: Historical Photographs on the Web (Rick Newton, UMass Environmental Institute)

- 3/9 Athol & the Millers River in the late 20th century: Deindustrialization (Robert Forrant, UMass Lowell)

Robert Forrant, "Too Many Bends in the River: The Post WW II Decline of the Connecticut River Valley Machine Tool Industry," *Journal of Industrial History* 5 (2) 2002: 71-91.

- 3/14 Trip to Athol: Research in Athol Public Library and Historical Society
3/16 Writing assignment #2 due: photo analysis (hand in and discuss)

spring break

- 3/28 Trip to Athol: Reading the Landscape (walk, take photos, record sounds)
 3/30 Athol & the Millers River in the late 20th century: river clean-up and recreation
 (Jerry Schoen)

- A. Young, North of Quabbin Revisited, "Land Protection," 166-72; "Naturalists," 202-07;
 "Quabbin, 283-90; "River Rat Race," 296-98.
 S. Hays, "From Conservation to Environment," in *Beauty, Health, and Permanence:
 Environmental Politics in the United States 1955-85*, pp. 13-39.

- 4/4 Workshop: Oral History (Cathy Stanton, Tufts University)
 4/6 Nature stories and sense of place
 Sat 4/8 River Rat Race

American Folklife Center, *Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction to Field
 Techniques (2002)* www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork
 Mary Hufford, "Genres of Place"

- 4/11 Trip to Athol: to conduct oral history and other research
 4/13 Discuss draft scripts of individual sections

- 4/18 Trip to Athol: to conduct oral history and other research
 4/20 No class—DG out of town

- 4/25 Workshop: Public Speaking: (work on class presentation to community)
 4/27 Continue work on class presentation to community

- 5/2 Trip to Athol: rehearse and conduct evening public meeting
 5/4 Discuss feedback from public meeting

- 5/9 Workshop: incorporate feedback from public meeting into website
 5/11 Incorporate feedback from public meeting into website

- 5/16 Workshop: finalize website and other products
 5/18 Final paper due: reflecting on your course experience