

History 105.03  
MW, 2pm-3:15  
Clough 304

Dee Garceau  
Office: Th,Fri 2-4pm  
Buckman 206

## **The Mormons in the American West**

One-hundred and seventy years ago, Mormons set up a communal society in a capitalist economy; a theocracy in a republic that mandated the separation of church and state; and polygamous marriage in defiance of civil law throughout the United States. It would be easy to dismiss Mormonism as a curious outlier, a novelty on our cultural landscape, except that it remains the fastest-growing religious denomination on the planet today. Moreover, there is something decidedly *American* about the Mormons. What elements of United States history and culture gave rise to this group? Why, given their unusual social, economic, and political organization, did the Mormons take root so firmly on U.S. soil? This course will explore the Mormon historical experience within the larger contexts of American gender and religious history, and the history of the American West.

### **Required Texts**

Elna Baker, *The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance; A Memoir* (New York: Penguin Group, 2009).

Jessie Embry, *Mormon Polygamous Families: Life in the Principle* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990).

Richard Etulain, *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006).

Jon Krakauer, *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* (New York: Random House, 2004).

Dorothy Allred Solomon, *Daughter of the Saints: Growing Up in Polygamy* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003).

Wallace Stegner, *The Gathering of Zion: The Story of the Mormon Trail* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992).

Coursepack: A collection of xeroxed articles and documents, available online. Click on *Academic Departments*. Select *History*. Select *Garceau*. Select *Public folder*. Select *History 105*. You will find the readings listed by author, with an abbreviated title, in the History 105 folder.

### **Honor Code and Plagiarism:**

All work for this course should be pledged under the Honor Code. Use of another student's work is plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero. Use of a published author's information, ideas, or words without proper attribution is plagiarism. You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas in footnotes or endnotes, whether the source is quoted directly or not.

## **Course Objectives**

- 1) To familiarize you with key issues in the history of Mormonism in the United States; and to place Mormon cultures within the larger history of American social, political, and geographical forces that shaped them.
- 2) To practice critical thinking, as you weigh the evidence and develop an original interpretation of the issue at hand; and to apply History research methods, through analysis of primary sources and documentation in the Chicago style.
- 3) To practice the craft of writing through workshops, drafts, peer critiques, and rewrites.

## **Course Requirements**

- 1) Consistent attendance and participation in class discussion and workshops. [25%]
- 2) Two essays on topics drawn from the course readings. [25% each]
- 3) Two in-class writing workshops on editing your prose. [counts toward class participation]
- 5) One in-class debate over the Mountain Meadows massacre. [counts toward class participation]
- 6) Two essays on your research topic: the first using only primary sources; and the second using only secondary sources. These two essays will be combined in your final research paper. [25%]
- 7) One 10-page research paper, presenting an original interpretation based on archival sources. The final research paper must show thoughtful revision and improvement beyond the primary and secondary source essays that informed it. [25%]

Rules for the Road: Completion of assigned work, on time. Papers or presentations missed without a verifiable medical reason will earn a grade of zero. We have the advantage of small classes in which everyone can participate, and our discussions and workshops are central to this course. I cannot recreate a discussion with your participation if you were absent. Thus, missed classes cannot be “made up.” Over three absences will lower your average by one letter grade.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

W Jan 11 Introduction to the Course

M Jan 16 Martin Luther King Observance, no classes.

W Jan 18 The Westering Impulse

Reading: Wallace Stegner, “Introduction,” *The Gathering of Zion*, 1-13.

Richard Etulain, “Mormons, Miners, and the Search for Western Community,” *Beyond the Missouri*, 148-78.



- M Feb 13 Tens, Fifties, and Hundreds: The Mormon Trail  
 Reading: Stegner, *Gathering of Zion*, 140-96.  
**Research prospectus due.**
- W Feb 15 The Mormon Reformation and the Mountain Meadows Massacre  
 Reading: Krakauer, "Exodus," *Under the Banner*, 193-210.  
 David Bigler & Will Bagley, "Preface," [Coursepack], 15-18.  
 "Sermons from the Mormon Reformation" [Coursepack] 57-61.  
 Krakauer, "For Water Will Not Do," *Under the Banner*, 211-27.
- M Feb 20 **Debate: What Happened at Mountain Meadows, and Why?**  
 Reading: Kraakuer, "Scapegoats," *Under the Banner*, 228-50.  
 Jerald & Sandra Tanner, "Mormon Blood Atonement: Fact or Fantasy?" [Coursepack], 10-14.  
 "Discourses by Brigham Young" [Coursepack], 62-64.  
 Nancy Huff Cates, "Survivor's Statement" (1875) [Coursepack], 426-27.  
 Martha Elizabeth Baker & Mrs. Betty Terry, "Survivor's Memories," *Arkansas Gazette* (1938) [Coursepack], 431-34.  
 Sallie Baker Gladden Mitchell statement (1940) *The American Weekly* [Coursepack], 435-38.  
 Property Claims Filed by heirs of Persons Killed at Mountain Meadows [Coursepack], 43-49.  
 James Lynch Testimony [Coursepack], 240-42.  
 Letter from John D. Lee to Emma Lee [Coursepack], 322-26.
- W Feb 22 Living in the Principle  
 Reading: Jessie Embry, "Entering Plural Marriage," *Mormon Polygamous Families*, 53-71.  
 Lawrence Foster, "Polygamy and Mormon Women," [Coursepack], 298-310.  
 Samuel Bowles, "Mormon Wives" [Coursepack], 114-15; 124-27.

M Feb 27 From the Empire of Deseret to the State of Utah

Reading: Richard Wagoner, "Paving the Way to Statehood"  
[Coursepack], 125-32.

Wagoner, "The Wilford Woodruff Manifesto" [Coursepack],  
133-42.

Wagoner, "Founding Mormon Fundamentalism" [Coursepack],  
177-88.

W Feb 29 **Works in Progress Reports**

M March 5 **Works in Progress Reports**

W March 7 **Works in Progress Reports**

March 10-18 *Spring Break*

M March 19 Polygamy Goes Underground

Reading: Richard Wagoner, "Crusades Against the Principle"  
[Coursepack], 189-99.

Jessie Embry, "The Impact of Anti-Polygamy Laws," *Mormon  
Polygamous Families*, 17-28.

Jessie Embry, "Daily Life and Family Roles," *Mormon  
Polygamous Families*, 89-94.

W March 21 In Exile at Home: Fundamentalist LDS Church Communities

Reading: Dorothy Solomon, *Daughter of the Saints: Growing Up in  
Polygamy*, 11-103.

M March 26 To Mexico and Back

Reading: Dorothy Solomon, *Daughter of the Saints: Growing Up in  
Polygamy*, 104-208.

- W March 28 Families Under Siege  
Reading: Dorothy Solomon, *Daughter of the Saints*, 209-320.
- M April 2 Gender and Power in Twentieth-Century Fundamentalist Mormon Polygamy  
Reading: Dorothy Solomon, *Daughter of the Saints*, 321-96.  
Jessie Embry, "Participant Evaluation of Polygamy," *Mormon Polygamous Families*, 187-94.
- W April 4 Insularity and Fanaticism  
Reading: Krakauer, "Prologue," *Under the Banner of Heaven*, pp. xi-xxiii.  
Krakauer, "The Lafferty Boys," *Under the Banner*, 136-43.  
Krakauer, "Brenda," *Under the Banner*, 144-56.  
Krakauer, "The One Mighty and Strong," 157-72.  
Krakauer, "Removal," *Under the Banner*, 173-90.
- M April 9 Insularity and Fanaticism: Revisiting the Roots  
Reading: Krakauer, "The City of the Saints," *Under the Banner*, 1-8.  
Krakauer, "Short Creek," *Under the Banner*, 9-29.  
Krakauer, "Bountiful," *Under the Banner*, 31-42.  
Krakauer, "Elizabeth and Ruby," *Under the Banner*, 43-53.  
Krakauer, "The Second Great Awakening," 54-64.  
Krakauer, "Cumorah," *Under the Banner*, 65-72.  
Krakauer, "The Still Small Voice," *Under the Banner*, 73-86.  
Krakauer, "The Peace Maker," *Under the Banner*, 87-93.
- W April 11 Judgement in Provo  
Reading: Krakauer, "Evangeline," *Under the Banner*, 261-79.  
Krakauer, "Reno," *Under the Banner*, 280-90.  
Krakauer, "Judgment in Provo," *Under the Banner*, 291-311.

[April 11 readings continued, next page]

- W April 11 Judgement in Provo [*continued*]:  
Reading: Krakauer, "The Great and Dreadful Day," *Under the Banner*, 312-21.  
Krakauer, "The American Religion," *Under the Banner*, 322-28.  
Krakauer, "Canaan Mountain," *Under the Banner*, 329-34.  
Krakauer, "Author's Remarks & Appendix," 335-65.
- M April 16 A Twenty-First Century Mormon Ponders Her Upbringing  
Reading: Elna Baker, *The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance*, 1-142.
- W April 18 A Twenty-First Century Mormon Ponders Her Choices  
Reading: Elna Baker, *The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance*, 143-272.
- M April 23 Interpretive Challenges and Citing Evidence: Workshop
- W April 25 Synthesis and Reflection
- May 2 **Final Research Paper Due. Please bring a hard copy to my office by 5pm.**

\* \* \* \* \*