

Geography 426: The Historical Geography of British Columbia. Colonialism, resistance, and land use in early British Columbia.

Instructor: David Brownstein <david.brownstein at geog.ubc.ca>
Fall 2015. Mondays, 9am to noon in Geography room 242.

Office: Room 210H. Office hour: Monday 12-1 pm. Phone: 604-827-5541.

Pre-requisites: none, though Geog 327 and 328 are recommended.
This course is eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading for non-majors.

Required text and reading package available for purchase at the UBC Bookstore.
The text is: George Stanley Godwin (1994 [1929]). *The Eternal Forest*, Robert S. Thomson (ed), Godwin Books, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Other readings available via the library, either on reserve or in electronic format.

In British Columbia, the past is very much alive! Unresolved Native land claims keep the archives a busy place as researchers compete to write histories that define how we ought to redistribute access to resources. This is also a province of divergent environmental visions, where people look at the same patch of land or length of coastline and imagine quite contradictory possibilities. These people, too, enlist stories of progress or decline to either justify or condemn various schemes for development.

In this series of weekly meetings, we will discuss texts that derive historical understanding from an analysis of the archival record. After an overview of important cultural, political, economic and environmental changes, the student will be able to place contemporary issues in historical context. Thus equipped, students will be better positioned to draw their own informed opinions on matters of importance to all British Columbians.

There will be three guided assignments. The first will be a site-history, informed by a trip to the archives, in the form of a contaminated site report. The second will be completed in groups of three—it is a heritage-minute YouTube video based on a photograph or artwork. With the same three group members, you will also guide your peers through the week's material and lead the discussion for one of our class meetings. Finally, we conclude the term with a 24-hour take home exam.

Through these assignments you will develop the skills to:

- navigate through the archives to find specific information
- analyze archival documents across a variety of media
- think critically about the construction and use of historical narrative, and
- recognize and understand important spatial aspects of temporal patterns

Thus, the main themes of the course will centre on ideas of cultural identity and the human-environment relationship.

Evaluation.

Site-history: 20%; Heritage Minute Video: 20%; Peer-led learning: 25%; 24-hour take home final exam: 25%; Weekly attendance and participation: 10%.

At a glance.

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
Sept 14	Intro		groups
Sept 21	Historical Narrative	Wiki, Cdn biography (online), Harvey (package), Journal (online).	
Sept 28	Fieldtrip: City of Vancouver Archives	Two short blurbs (online), Colten (package).	
Oct 5	Early colonial encounters	Godwin, Cook journal (package) Harris (ebook).	
Oct 12	Thanksgiving holiday		
Oct 13	Site-history due by Tuesday 13th, 3pm.		20%
Oct 19	From fur trade to reserves	Godwin, Indian Act (online), Stadfeld (online).	
Oct 26	Environmental change	Godwin, Caneron (online), Murton (online).	
Nov 2	Parks	Godwin, Barman (online), Hermansen and Wynn (online).	
Nov 9	Resource Management	Godwin, Grainger (package), Brownstein (online).	
Nov 16	Race and Class	Godwin, Lutz (online), documentary (in class).	
Nov 23	Gender	Godwin, Van Kirk (online), Perry (online).	
Nov 27	Videos due by 4:30	Class film fest on Nov 30th.	20%
Nov 30	Modern treaty making	Godwin, Harris (online), Flanagan (online).	
Dec 7-8	Final exam. Out a 9am Dec 7th, due by 10am Dec 8th.	Covers entire course.	25%.

Weekly Schedule.

Sept 14. **Introductions.**

- Groups established, presentation topics selected

Sept 21. **Opening the black box of historical narrative. An intro to historical argument and the ‘archival combustion engine.’**

- Visit to the Geographic Information Centre re Air Photos
- David Douglas entry in Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Douglas
- Douglas entry in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online: http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?&id_nbr=2847&&PHPSESSID=n5s6fftp44i3i3rmv43ltpt8j2
- Athelstan George Harvey (1947) *Douglas of the Fir: A Biography of David Douglas Botanist*, Harvard University Press, pp 107-129. Available in coursepack.
- Douglas Journal, Tuesday March 20, 1827- Sept 1 (pdf physical pages 251-302, numbered as 242-293). Available online via a link in the wiki article.

Sept 28. **City of Vancouver Archives Fieldtrip.** Applied Historical Geography: Site History.

- British Columbia Ministry of the Environment (2006). “Facts on Contaminated Sites”. Available on course website.
- British Columbia Ministry of the Environment (2009). “Profiles on Remediation Projects: 18th and Dunbar, Former Dry cleaning Operations, Vancouver, B.C.”. Available on course website.
- Craig E. Colten (2004). “Hazardous Wastes and Environmental Remediation” in *Public History and the Environment*, Martin V Melosi and Philip Scarpino (eds), Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida, pp 106-123. Available in coursepack.

Oct 5. **Early colonial encounters**

- Heritage Minute Video assigned.
- Godwin chapters 1 - 4.
- Primary(ish) document, extract from Captain Cook's journal at Nootka Sound. Available in the coursepack.
- Cole Harris (1997) "Voices of Smallpox around the Strait of Georgia" in *The Resettlement of British Columbia*, UBC Press, pp 3-30. Available as an ebook via the UBC library.

Oct 12. No class, Thanksgiving.

Oct 13. **Site history report due by 4:30pm.**

Oct 19. **From the fur trade to reserves.**

- Primary Document: The Indian Act. Available on course website.
- Godwin chapters 5 through 8.
- Bruce Stadfeld (1999). "Manifestations of Power: Native Resistance to the Resettlement of British Columbia" in R.W. Sandwell (ed), *Beyond the City Limits: Rural History in British Columbia*, UBC Press, Vancouver, pp 33-46. Available as an ebook via the UBC Library.

Oct 26. **Environmental change in the lower mainland.**

- Godwin chapters 9 through 12.
- Laura Cameron extract (1997). "Margins and Mosquitoes" in *Openings: A Meditation on History, Method, and Sumas Lake*, McGill-Queen's University Press, pp 41-75. Online as ebook via UBC library.
- James Murton extract (2007). "Creating Order at Sumas" in *Creating a Modern Countryside: Liberalism and Land Resettlement in British Columbia*, UBC press, pp 109-135. Available as ebook via UBC library.

Nov 2. **The little-known Environmental History of some local parks.**

- Godwin chapters 13 through 16.
- Sally Hermansen and Graeme Wynn (2005). "Reflections on the Nature of an Urban Bog" in *Urban History Review*, vol 34, no 1, pp 9-27. Available via UBC library.
- Jean Barman (2007). "Erasing Indigenous Indigeneity in Vancouver" in *BC Studies*, no 155, pp 3-30. Available online via the UBC Library.

Nov 9. **Resources and their management.**

- Godwin chapters 17 through 20.
- Extract from M. Allerdale Grainger (1964 [1908]). *Woodsmen of the West, McClelland and Stewart Limited*. Available in coursepack.
- Gordon Hak (2000). "Business Strategies" and "Critics" in *Turning Trees into Dollars: The British Columbia Coastal Lumber Industry, 1858-1913*, University of Toronto Press, pp 48-94. Available in coursepack.

Nov 16. **Creating a settler society. Race and Class.**

- Godwin chapters 21 through 25.
- Video in class, *1788: A History of Chinese and First Nations Relations in B.C.*
- John Lutz (1993). "After the fur trade: the aboriginal laboring class of British Columbia, 1849-1890" in *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, vol 3, pp 69-93. Available via UBC library.

Nov 23. **Creating a Settler Society. Gender.**

- Godwin chapters 26 through 30.
- Sylvia Van Kirk (1997). "Tracing the Fortunes of Five Founding Families of Victoria" in *B.C. Studies*, no 115/116, pp 148-179. Available via UBC library.
- Adele Perry (1999). "Bachelors in the Backwoods: White Men and Homosocial culture in Up-Country British Columbia, 1858-71, in *Beyond the City Limits*, pp 180-194. Available as an ebook via the UBC Library.

Nov 27 Heritage Minutes due by 4:30, for screening in class on Nov 30.

Nov 30. **Modern Treaty Making.**

- Godwin chapters 31 to end
- Cole Harris (2002). "Towards a Postcolonial Land Policy" in *Making Native Space*, pp 293-323. Available as an ebook via the UBC Library.
- Tom Flanagan (2008). "The Fiction of Aboriginal Sovereignty" in *First Nations? Second Thoughts*, 2nd ed, McGill-Queen's University Press, pp 48-66. Available online as an ebook via the UBC library.

Dec 7. Take home **Final Exam**, 24 hours. Out by 9am Dec 7th, due by 10am Dec 8th.