SYLLABUS

Anthro 750: Wilderness Workshop
Dr. Donald Blakeslee
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Objectives: Humans do not merely experience places, things and events, they interpret them using culturally defined concepts, values and world views. This week-long workshop allows participants to experience one of the most spectacular spots on this planet -- Yellowstone Park. We will deal with the concept of wilderness, both as defined in the western tradition and as defined by Plains Indians. We will contrast the experiences of ordinary tourists, the interpretations of the Yellowstone area as presented by the National Park Service, and some of the ways that Native Americans interpreted the same phenomena.

In modern America, people seldom have direct experience with places not modified by humans, and then usually only for short periods of time. We live indoors, usually in cities, and we travel in enclosed vehicles. Beginning late in the last century, our society began to reserve remarkable spots that presumably have been little affected by progress. Some, including portions of Yellowstone Park, are designated as "wilderness." We have specialists (called scientists) whose job it is to interpret nature for us. They do so using an approach deeply embedded in our cultural tradition, an approach that assumes a dualistic universe and that uses reductionism as a basic approach.

In contrast, Native Americans lived mostly out of doors, in small groups that had relatively little impact on the land. They did not view the place as made up of wilderness and whatever is left when wilderness is subtracted from the whole. They did, however, have special places that they regarded as sacred. Native Americans tended to have few specialists, who operated in a monistic rather than dualistic world view. They made less distinction than we do between the natural and supernatural, and the task of interpreting experience was open to everyone.

Methods: We will convene at Bridge Bay in Yellowstone Park and will camp there for a week. We will take hikes every day to visit thermal features, lakes, waterfalls, rapids, canyons, valleys and mountains. Participants will experience scenery, wildlife, flora, colors, aromas. Evenings will be spent discussing these phenomena and attempting to explore different ways of interpreting them.

Wednesday is a free day during which participants may do as they wish. Many activities are available, including trail-riding, white water rafting, boat tours, buying souvenirs, and the like. One evening will be devoted to observing the sky (weather permitting).
Readings:
There is no required text for the course, but your paper must be based on some reading as well as your direct experiences in the park. Some suggested items include:
Peter Nabakov and Lawrence Loendorf, Restoring a Presence.
Hamilton’s Guide: Yellowstone National Park,
Michael Frome, Re-greening the National Parks, University of Arizona Press.
Mark D. Spence, Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks

Other volumes that might prove useful for understanding Native American viewpoints are:
Von Del Chamberlain, When the Stars Came Down to Earth
Gene Weltfish, Lost Universe
Gilbert Wilson, The Horse and Dog in Hidatsa Culture
Thomas Mails, Fools Crow
William Powers, Sacred Language
John Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks
Stephen Ambrose, Crazy Horse and Custer

Still other volumes on the geology, fauna and flora of the park are available in shops there in the WSU library.

Students will be required to write a paper (due Nov. 1) based on their experience and their readings. It is recommended that participants keep a daily journal in order to prepare for the paper. The exact topic is open; it could be a study of the tourists, of how the Park Service presents the experience, on the concept of wilderness, on the bison, bears, elk, etc.

Schedule:
Saturday Aug 2: leave Wichita, camp at Veedauwoo
Moose Falls
Lewis Canyon
Lewis Falls

Sunday, Aug. 3: (time permitting)
Isa Lake
Mystic Falls
Kepler Cascades
Geyser basins
Firehole Lake
Old Faithful

Monday, Aug. 4: Lake
Hayden valley
Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
The Dragon’s Mouth

Tuesday, Aug. 5: Free time
See suggested activities
Sheepeater Cliff
Obsidian Cliff
Firehole Canyon
Mammoth Hot Springs

Friday, Aug. 8: Grand Tetons Jenny Lake
Jackson Lake
Fees: The extra fee of $275 pays for all materials, camping fees and park entry fees. **It does not provide for transportation.** We will be cooking for ourselves, taking turns with the various tasks. Food will be provided from the fee. We will help arrange carpooling to and from the park. You are free to bring your own vehicle (be sure to bring your park entry permit). Those going in the university vehicle will be camping out on the way up and back.

**REALITIES**
You will be given a copy of the park regulations when you enter the park. You must read them and abide by them!
We will be camping out at a very high altitude (50% higher than Denver) for a week, and it will take a bit of getting used to:
- nights are cold -- bring warm clothing
- you will be short of breath -- walk slowly the first day
- bears can be a problem, so no unattended coolers outside the vehicles (there is a fine)
  - all food and water must be properly disposed of
  - no food in your tent (you’re not really **that** stupid)
  - read the handout on proper bear protocol
- fires must be thoroughly doused when left unattended
- stay on marked paths, especially in thermal areas
- do not drink stream water unless you want parasites
- All litter, including cigarette butts, must be placed in trash cans
- Tents are open to noise; be considerate of your neighbors.

**Observe Quiet hours**
Part of your grade will reflect your gracious participation in camp chores: cooking, cleaning, getting water, gathering firewood, etc.

**Equipment**
- tent
- sleeping bag (good to 20 degrees or less)
- air mattress, cot or sleeping pad
- warm clothing for mornings and evenings
- rain gear is recommended, but we can make do with garbage bags
- comfortable, broken-in, walking shoes or boots with good traction
- sun block if you have sensitive skin
- flashlight
- insect repellent
- canteen
- day pack or backpack
- Compass (optional)
- binoculars (optional)
- camera (optional)

**Emergency numbers:**
- Mammoth Clinic: (307)-344-7965
- Old Faithful Dispensary: (307)-545-7325
Monday: OLD FAITHFUL-BISCUIT BASIN AREA

Route:
Go South (right) from Bridge Bay entryway. Stop first at West Thumb geyser basin. Turn left leaving there and follow sign to OLD FAITHFUL. We will make short stops at Isa Lake and Kepler Cascades. Go past Old Faithful turnoff to FIREHOLE LAKE DRIVE and Fountain Paint Pots. The latter are opposite the exit of Firehole Lake Drive. Then head back south to Midway Basin and then BISCUIT BASIN. This is the starting point of a hike to Mystic Falls, your first taste of the back country. Later, after the visit to the falls, we will continue south to OLD FAITHFUL and its geyser basin. When you are completely worn out, head for home the way you came.

Features En Route:
Isa Lake is practically on the continental divide (which the road crosses twice on the way to Old Faithful). There should be water lilies in bloom -- altogether a peaceful place compared to what you will find later.

Kepler Cascades are a set of rapids on the Firehole River. Boardwalks take you out over them for an excellent view.

Points to Visit:
Firehole Lake Drive is a few miles North (left) from Biscuit Basin. It is one-way. Stop at the first colorful pools on the left; the water is amazing. Continue on around for geyser cones and Firehole Lake. The Fountain Paint Pots are just up the road to the right from the exit of Firehole Lake Drive.

Midway and Biscuit Basins are active geyser areas with interesting pools and vents. Keep on the boardwalk unless you don't like the skin to stay on your legs.

Mystic Falls is not stressful by the route we will take. The trail starts at the back end of Biscuit Basin. When you come to a fork in the trail, bear left (away from Lookout point) unless you are truly masochistic. The trail runs up a beautiful little valley to Mystic Falls -- much smaller than those on the Yellowstone, but beautiful. Hot springs make the approach dangerous; Be careful! Do not cross to the other side of the stream. Keep an eye on the vegetation and for smaller forms of wildlife.

Old Faithful Area: A monument to the power of advertising, Old Faithful is one of the most viewed natural features on the continent. There will be a crowd for every eruption. Even the cloverleaf leading to the area is impressive -- especially for a wilderness. Boardwalks lead to other geysers, and there is a short trail to Solitary Geyser and an overlook. Take in as much as you can stand. Also check out the Lodge; it is part of the Yellowstone experience.
TUESDAY: Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Route:
From Bridge Bay entrance, turn north toward CANYON JUNCTION. Avoid turning toward Lake Hotel and Fishing Bridge. In the Canyon area, take the turnoff toward Artists' Point. There is a parking area on the right immediately after the bridge. A hike along the Yellowstone River will start from there. After that, we will proceed to Artists Point and another short hike along the canyon rim.

Next, go back across the bridge to the main highway. Follow the signs to the Brink of the Lower Falls.

Features en route

Sulphur Caldron and the mud volcanoes are thermal features that lack the ground water to be geysers. Fumaroles become mud pots when acid steam breaks down rock to make clay that plugs the vent. We will stop here to consider a Kiowa legend that involves this very spot.

Hayden Valley, a large meadow that was once under an arm of Yellowstone Lake, is a good spot to see bison. Look for some cliffs along the streams in which the lake deposits are exposed. To the Southeast is the Sour Creek Dome, a spot that is being lifted up an inch per year and that may eventually blow its lid.

Points to visit
1. Upper and Lower Falls. We will start on the south side, above the Upper Falls and walk along the trail past upper and lower falls.
2. Artists' Point and beyond. The south side of the canyon offers the best views of the canyon but it is crowded at the upper end. If the trail has been repaired, you may walk all the way out to a view of Silver Cord falls, but you should make a realistic judgement of what kind of shape you are in, as there is more to see on the north side.
3. North side The most spectacular spot in the park may be the brink of the Lower Falls, but the climb back up from it is tough. The trail between the two falls is not particularly hard, and it offers a chance to see a pretty cascade above Crystal falls. The little side trails that used to allow a view of Crystal Falls and Grotto Falls are now closed to the public.

Optional: The canyon rim trail is a relatively short and easy hike for those who aren’t worn out yet. It offers good views of the Canyon and Silver Cord Falls. STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE. Return on the same trail. Bears frequent this area; make noise.

Inspiration point. This is just down the road from the trail head. It has a fine view of the canyon but will be much more crowded than the trail.
Wednesday: FREE TIME

The day is yours to do as you please. There are hiking, white water rafting and horseback riding available in and near the park. I have listed some hiking possibilities here.

HEART LAKE
If the weather is good and the trail isn't closed because of bears, this is a solid day-long hike for those who are not faint of heart.

Route:
From Grant Village, turn South (left) toward the South Entrance. The Trail to Heart Lake is about 4.3 miles south, and there are trail heads on both sides of the road.
Take the trail to the east and return by the same trail.

Features to see:
This is the real back country; wildlife should be visible. You will head over a pass to the Heart Lake valley. The mountain to the south is Factory Hill. Just south of the trail where it begins to slope toward the lake, there are a large number of hot springs. Follow Witch Creek to the Lake. The trail splits at the lake. There is a patrol cabin on the left hand trail. A short distance down the right hand trail is Rustic Geyser. You can eat at the lake and return the way you came.

RIDDLE LAKE
This is an easy hike to a nice little lake with a great view of mountains and the chance to see whistler swans. We saw mountain lion tracks here in 2001.

Route:
From Grant Village, turn south (left) and go almost two miles. The trail head is on the east side of the road.

Features to see:
The trail is fairly short (2.5 miles) over level ground. Your bragging rights involve the fact that it crosses the continental divide a short distance from the road. The lake has birds and sometimes bears.

MOUNT WASHBURN
If the weather is good and Heart Lake is closed because of bears, this could be your destination.

Route: From Grant Village, head north (right) past West Thumb, Lake and Canyon junctions toward Tower Junction. The trail head is in Dunraven Pass, about 3.5 miles past Canyon Junction.

Features to see: This hike is a climb up a 10,240 foot mountain (but starting pretty high up) along an old disused road. The view from the top is spectacular, but the going is steep. Mt. Washburn offers the (slim) opportunity to see bighorn sheep.

AVALANCHE PEAK
This is a relatively short but very steep hike in the eastern section of the park. Drive north from the campground to Lake Junction and from there toward the East Entrance/ Cody. The Avalanche Peak is on the north side of the road after you reach Sylvan Lake (which is on the South side). Be prepared for a rigorous climb and an exhilarating view.
BLACK CANYON
The Black Canyon trip allows stops at two waterfalls and a deep canyon. These three features are in the northeastern portion of the park. Go north one more time through the Hayden Valley and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. It is either a very long hike to Gardner or a shorter hike with a very steep exit.

**Tower Falls** is marked by a concession stand and a parking lot. Check out the falls both from the overlook and from the bottom of the canyon, which involves a short but steep walk back out.

**Lost Creek Falls** is an interesting contrast to Tower Falls. To reach it, continue north-northwest along the road to Roosevelt Lodge. The trail to the falls heads behind the lodge, past the public telephones. There is the usual sign-in spot and the trail immediately forks. The right fork is marked; it goes to Lost Creek Lake. Take the unmarked left hand trail and follow it for about half a mile. When the trail begins to ascend from the creek, you can take to the creek bed and scramble over the boulders to the very base of the falls.

The trail to a suspension bridge over the **Black Canyon** of the Yellowstone begins a few miles up the road from Roosevelt Lodge. From the lodge the road runs first more or less due west for about a mile and a half, then turns north for another two miles. Just after it turns back toward the west, on the north side of the road, is the trail head. The walk to the river canyon is not very long, but it is quite steep, so pace yourself coming out. Look for the osprey nest on the west end of the bridge. Also, stand at the edge of the canyon past the bridge and imagine the scene from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

You can continue down the canyon if you have arranged for someone to pick you up at the other end of the trail. It is a long hike, but in a spectacular and remote part of the park. Make sure you have at least one companion and that you make noise as you go along. Also, you MUST have someone who knows where to pick you up. Take plenty of water.
Thursday: FIREHOLE RIVER, OBSIDIAN CLIFF AND MAMMOTH

Route:
Exit the campground and go north to Canyon Junction. Turn left and go to the next junction and left again, it is a short distance to the entry to the Firehole Canyon Drive. If the weather permits, we will swim in the Firehole River (bring a suit or suitable shorts). From there we will head north (left) to Sheepeater cliff and Obsidian Cliff and Mammoth. The town of Mammoth contains Mammoth Hot Springs and the park headquarters. From there, we will head east across the north end of the park.

En Route:
Firehole River Canyon. This is in a canyon on a side route on the road toward Mammoth. There are great views of geological features here. The water will be just warm enough for swimming.

Obsidian Cliff is easy to miss. There is a sign and a small parking area on the left hand side of the road. You can clamber over the fallen rocks, but DO NOT take any souvenirs. This spot is a famous source of black natural glass that was favored for flintknapping by Native Americans. For some of them, this shiny black stone symbolized the underworld sun. Hundreds of large points of Yellowstone obsidian have been excavated from a burial mound in Ohio that was constructed around A.D. 250. The stone was probably obtained during a pilgrimage to the park area.

Sheepeater Cliff is a short distance off the main road on the right. It features some spectacular basalt columns, a feature that occurs when a massive basalt flow cools and contracts. You can climb the cliff.

Mammoth Hot Springs is a spectacular set of hot springs, the water in which has come up through limestone rather than volcanic deposits. The material that have deposited is travertine rather than sinter. There are over 100 active hot springs and some inactive ones as well in this relatively cool basin. Colors are created by algae in this environment. The water supply to these features has dropped off the last two years, killing some of the springs.

Black Canyon of the Yellowstone We will stop at a couple of interesting spots to look down into the canyon both for geology and for wildlife.
Friday: GRAND TETONS and GLACIAL GEOLOGY

We will drive south from Yellowstone Park into Grand Teton Park. We will drive south past Jackson Lake stopping for photos. We will have a brief pit stop at Coulter Bay and then proceed (with one photo stop) to the south end of Jenny Lake. There we will take a boat ride across the lake ($10.00) to the base of a trail that will take us up into a U-shaped glacial valley. This will be our day for glacial geology.

We will eat lunch after our return, but this is one hike where you will want to carry some snacks. After Jenny Lake, we will head north, stopping to go to the top of Signal Mountain if there is time.