Course Description:
For more than ten-thousand years, people left their homes in the “old world” to settle new places across the North American continent. They envisioned and encountered landscapes and communities that defied their expectations, and their journeys challenged their abilities to describe their experiences to people back home. The physical enterprise of travel strained their bodies as well. The accounts they left, both written and archaeological, provide evidence of the ways that hunger, sweat, sore muscles and other intimate sensations helped structure historical visions of North American geography.

This course is focused around the intensive study of these historical sources. In particular, we will approach the exploration of North America as a physical and mental exercise that challenged and transformed historical and geographical modes of interpretation and communication. In addition to reading secondary literature, we will practice a critical reading of primary sources, and, through an empathetic reconstruction of exploratory practice, we will produce our own historical documents. Students will master the history of exploration by participating in a series of field assignments in addition to daily lectures and class discussions. Our goal is to master the extant information of the history exploration as well as to explore the process of producing historical information itself.

Required Texts (available for purchase in bookstore):
NONE

Grading Criteria:
Attendance and Participation 10%
Film Reviews (3 @ 5%) 15%
Written Discussion Responses (9 @ 5%) 45%
Expedition History (final) 20%
100%
Accessibility:
This course is committed to accessibility. If you need certain accommodations, please notify me (Michael Wise) in person as soon as possible. If it is not possible to discuss accommodations in person, for whatever reason, then please email me at michael.wise@unt.edu or call me at (940) 891-6774.

Blackboard Website:
Grades and digitized course materials, including all assigned readings, will be available on Blackboard. Please note, however, that this is not an online course, and that changes to the syllabus and other important information may not always be available on Blackboard.

Attendance and Participation (10%):
Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to attended all class sessions. Two or more absences will result in an “F.”

Film Reviews (5% x3):
We will view three films in class: Cabeza de Vaca (Echevarría - 1991), The Revenant (Iñarritu - 2015), and Wild (Vallée - 2014). Students will be responsible for writing a five-hundred-word critical review of each film. These reviews will be graded on an A to F scale. More information will be provided in class.

Written Discussion Responses (5% x9):
Each day of class, students will be responsible for responding, in writing, to a question regarding that day’s reading assignment(s). This exercise is intended to help prepare students for class discussion and will be graded on a “check/plus/minus” basis. More information will be provided in class.

Expedition History (20%):
Each day of class, students will be responsible for embarking on small-group expeditions. They will be required to keep written journal accounts of their experiences. During the last week of class, small groups will swap expedition journals. Each student will write a short expedition history of another group’s travels. This assignment will be graded on an A-F scale primarily on the basis of the final, written historical account, but also on the basis of the student’s own consistency and participation keeping a journal.
WEEK 1 (May 15-May 18):

Monday, May 15, 2017
Course Introduction and formation of course expeditionary corps
LECTURE: The Native New World

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Native and non-Native geographies and the literature of encounter and landscape
READ: George R. Stewart, *Names on the Land* (1945): 1-10 (“Of what is attempted in this book”; “Of the naming that was before history”).
LECTURE: Place and History, Distance and Itinerary Measure

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
The Entradas
LECTURE: Geographical Imaginations in the Early Modern Era

Thursday, May 18, 2018
Louisiane
LECTURE: Fossils, Unicorns, and the Origins of Biogeography
DUE: Film Review #1
WEEK 2 (May 22-May 25):

Monday, May 22, 2017

**Lewis & Clark**


READ AND BROWSE (in-class): Gary Moulton, ed., *Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (University of Nebraska Press [online resource]).

LECTURE: Native and non-Native Encounters in the Far Northwest

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

**The Jeffersonian Southwest**


LECTURE: Rivers of Empire in the Early Republic

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

**Animals, Fur Traders, and “accidental discoveries”**


LECTURE: Exploration and Animal Capital in the Nineteenth-century American West


Thursday, May 25, 2017

**Science, Exploration, and the Colonial State**


LECTURE: The Survey Map as an Instrument of Power

DUE: Film Review #2
WEEK 3 (May 30 – June 1):

Monday, May 29, 2017
no class

Tuesday, May 30, 2017
**Exploration as Recreation**
LECTURE: Exploration History and the Wilderness Critique

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
**Alternatives? Exploration and Twentieth-Century “Infill”**
LECTURE: New “Frontiers” of North American Exploration
WRITE (in-class): Expeditionary Corps Histories (begin)
DUE: Film Review #3

Thursday, June 1, 2017
**FINAL EXAM**
DUE: Expeditionary Corps Histories, via email ([michael.wise@unt.edu](mailto:michael.wise@unt.edu)), by 12 PM.