

The Ozarks in American History – HST 375 Spring 2022

Dr. Blevins
M 5:30-8:15
Strong 400

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Course Purpose and Objectives

HST 375 explores the heritage of one of America's highland regions within the context of broader historical developments.

Objectives:

- knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society;
- an understanding of the distinct, overlapping, and shared histories of people based on varied identities, regional affiliations, and experiences;
- an understanding of the history of the Ozark region, and the experiences of its inhabitants, in the context of American history;
- an appreciation for regional and intra-regional diversity within the United States.

Office Hours

M 1:00-4:00 & by appointment

University Policy Statements

All MSU policy statements, including up-to-date COVID-19 policies, can be found at <https://www.missouristate.edu/provost/bbsyllabus.htm>, as well as on the "University Policies" link on Blackboard.

Remember that students are required to wear masks in academic buildings (including classrooms and office areas) while on campus.

COVID-19 contingency: Should the university experience a temporary shutdown of on-campus activities (as happened in spring 2020), this course will transition into an online course for the duration of the shutdown. That transition will include online submission of any due assignments and possibly the use of Zoom as a lecture platform. Details will be provided in the case of such a contingency.

Attendance Policy

HST 375 offers a mixture of lecture and classroom discussion; regular class attendance is valuable. Because this course meets only once per week, three or more unexcused absences will be grounds for receiving a failing grade. Make-up exams will be given only for absences in cases of family emergency, documented medical treatment, or

university-sanctioned activities. Student athletes and all other students must inform me of all college-sanctioned absences. Any out-of-class assignment that falls due on the day of a college-sanctioned absence is still due on that date.

Late Assignments Policy

Unless otherwise instructed, you are to hand in all assignments during class on the due date. Any assignment not turned in on time will automatically receive a 10% late penalty. You will receive an additional 5% late penalty for each additional day that the assignment is not turned in for up to a week. Any assignment not turned in within one week of the due date will automatically receive a grade of zero.

Required Books

- Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 1: The Old Ozarks*
- Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 2: The Conflicted Ozarks*
- Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 3: The Ozarkers*
- Harper, *White Man's Heaven*

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE

<u>Class</u>	<u>Readings/Exam/Other</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 17	No class—MLKJr Day	
January 24	Blevins, <i>Old Ozarks</i> , pp. 1-9	Introduction
January 31	Blevins, <i>Old Ozarks</i> , chs. 1 & 2	The Native Ozarks
February 7	Blevins, <i>Old Ozarks</i> , chs. 3 & 4	Early Settlement
February 14	Blevins, <i>Old Ozarks</i> , chs. 5 & 6	Antebellum Era
Feb. 23 (Wed.)**	Blevins, <i>Conflicted Ozarks</i> , chs. 1 & 2	Civil War Era
February 28	Blevins, <i>Conflicted Ozarks</i> , chs. 3	Civil War Era
March 7	Mid-term Exam (5:30-6:45)	
March 14	No class—Spring Break	
March 21	Blevins, <i>Conflicted Ozarks</i> , ch. 4	Reconstruction
March 28	Blevins, <i>Conflicted Ozarks</i> , ch. 5 & Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , Intro & ch. 1	Recovery & Rails
April 4	Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , ch. 2	Agriculture
April 11	Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , ch. 3	Timber/Mining
April 18	Harper, <i>White Man's Heaven</i> Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , pp. 103-112	Race
April 25	Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , pp. 112-166	Depression/WWII
May 2	Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , ch. 6	Image/Tourism
May 9	Blevins, <i>Ozarkers</i> , ch. 7	Modernization
Final Exam	May 16 – 5:45-7:45	

ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

Grades in this course will come from two exams and four out-of-class assignments: a map exercise, a brief Civil War paper, a book review, and an Ozarks journal. The map is a simple exercise that consists of identifying counties and county seats in the Ozarks. All writing assignments will be graded on content, analysis, and the technical aspects of writing (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, etc.) The **map** is available in the Information tab on Blackboard and will be due at the second class, January 31.

Community & Conflict Paper

Using the links below to the *Community & Conflict* website, you will read primary documents (such as letters and diary entries) relating to life in the Ozarks during the Civil War era and write a brief reaction paper (2-3 pages.) The primary documents will give you a variety of first-hand perspectives on life in the Ozarks during the Civil War: male and female, Union and Confederate, homefront and military. Your paper should compare and contrast these perspectives and explain what the documents suggest as an overriding theme of the Civil War in the Ozarks. The paper is due February 23.

<http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org/>

Lucy M. Garrett Letter:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mack/id/275>

Hunter Letters:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mack/id/733/rec/1>

Lyman Gibson Bennett Diary, 1862: Read entries for February 22, March 8, & March 11 found on pages 117-120, 154-160, & 164-168.

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mack/id/1948/rec/2>

Erasmus Stirman Letter:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mack/id/2605/rec/16>

Isaac Tandy Rice Letter:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mack/id/594/rec/3>

Book Review

Each student will write a two-page, double-spaced review of the book *White Man's Heaven*, by Kimberly Harper. The review will be due in class on April 18, the day we will discuss the book. The review should include a brief synopsis of the content of the book as well as an analysis of the author's thesis statement. You may also include your own critique of the book if you wish.

Ozarks Journal

Each student will turn in an Ozarks “journal,” which will consist of four entries or papers. The main purpose of the journal is to promote analysis of the history of the Ozarks region, of Ozarks people, and of the image(s) of the region in the Ozarks and in the nation. Journal entries will be graded on content as well as on the technical aspects of writing (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, etc.)

- 1. The Ozarks and Ozarkers on the screen – Each student will record his/her impressions of at least one film featuring the region or its inhabitants. Your review of the film (one page, double-spaced) should include a brief synopsis of the plot and an explanation of how the film relates to the Ozarks. You should also make note of how the film depicts the Ozarks and Ozarkers. Do the characters fit certain stereotypes associated with the region, or do they appear to be standard characters that might show up in a movie about any American region? You will find a list of approved films on pages 8-9.
- 2. Magazines and the Ozarks – On Blackboard, in the Information section, you will find a folder under this title. In it will be magazine articles (or links to them) about the Ozarks (specifically about things to visit or see in the Ozarks), two of them dating from very recent years and two of them dating from the late 20th century. In a two-page, double-spaced entry, compare and contrast the two sets of articles. What do the differences in the 20th-century and 21st-century articles tell us about changes in the Ozarks and changes in perceptions of the Ozarks?
- 3. Article review – Each student will read a journal article chosen from the list on pages 6-7 of the syllabus and will write a one-page, double-spaced synopsis of the article’s content and analysis of the author’s thesis statement. You may also include a brief critique of the article if you choose.
- 4. The Ozarks Roadtrip - As part of your Ozarks Journal project, you will take an Ozarks road trip. Using the Ozarks sub-regions map that I will post on Blackboard as a guide, you should make a trip through the Ozarks according to one of the following plans:
 - A) The Four-subregions trip – Drive through at least four different Ozarks subregions in Missouri.
 - B) The Southern Ozarks trip – For anyone who is itching to get out of the state for a spell, then just take off southward and drive through at least three different sub-regions in the Arkansas and/or Oklahoma Ozarks.
 - C) The Podunk county seats trip – The Ozarks, and especially Missouri, is blessed with an unusually large number of unusually small county seat towns, such as Galena, Gainesville, Hartville, Tuscumbia, Alton, Van Buren, Eminence, and Centerville. Visit at least two of them from two different subregions of the Ozarks.

What to record on your road trip:

- Note your route and length of travel – highway numbers, towns or communities passed through, miles traveled.
- Observe and note sub-regional differences, both physical and socio-economic and/or cultural.
- Observe and note socio-economic characteristics, such as farming practices, job opportunities (factories, businesses, etc.), religious denominations, etc.
- Once your trip is complete, record your overall impressions of the area traversed and the people seen. Does the Ozark region you visited bear any resemblance to the Ozark region of stereotype or legend? Does a certain sub-region fit the image more than others? What stands out to you more, the diversity or homogeneity of the Ozarks?

Format for journal: This will not be turned in as an actual bound “journal” but should be submitted as a single Word document or pdf with the four separate entries clearly marked. You will submit the journal to Dr. Blevins no later than Monday, **May 2**.

ASSIGNMENT DATES AND GRADE VALUES

Mid-term Exam	March 7	100 points
Final exam	May 16	100 points
Map	Jan. 31	20 points
Community & Conflict Paper	Feb. 23	50 points
Book Review	April 18	40 points
Ozarks Journal	May 2	80 points
Participation		10 points

GRADE SCALE

HST 375 utilizes the plus/minus system of grading sanctioned by Missouri State University. The grade scale will be as follows:

93-100	A	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	60-66	D
87-89	B+	59 & below	F
83-86	B		
80-82	B-		
77-79	C+		
73-76	C		
70-72	C-		

ARTICLES

(Note: Articles from the *Missouri Historical Review* are available online at <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/mhr>. Articles/chapters from *Springfield's Urban Histories* are available only in the book. All other articles are available through the MSU library's JSTOR online database.)

John Bradbury, "'Good Water & Wood but the Country is a Miserable Botch': Flatland Soldiers Confront the Ozarks," *Missouri Historical Review*, January 1996.

Jamie C. Brandon, "Van Winkle's Mill: Recovering Lost Industrial and African-American Heritages in the Ozarks," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2008.

George E. Lankford, "Shawnee Convergence: Immigrant Indians in the Ozarks," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Winter 1999.

Lynn Morrow, "Trader William Gilliss and Delaware Migration in Southern Missouri," *Missouri Historical Review*, January 1981.

David Benac, "Whose Forest Is This? Hillfolk, Industrialists, and Government in the Ozarks," *Missouri Historical Review*, October 2006.

Brooks Blevins, "The Strike and the Still: Anti-Radical Violence and the Ku Klux Klan in the Ozarks," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Winter 1993.

Blevins, "The Arkansas Ghost Trial: The Connie Franklin Case and the Ozarks in the National Media," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 2009.

Blevins, "Region, Religion, and Competing Visions of Mountain Mission Education in the Ozarks," *Journal of Southern History* 82, February 2016.

Jason Navarro, "Under Penalty of Death: Pierce City's Night of Racial Terror," *Missouri Historical Review*, January 2006.

J. Blake Perkins, "Mountain Stereotypes, Whiteness, and the Discourse of Early School Reform in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1910s-1920s," *History of Education Quarterly* 54 (May 2014.)

Benjamin G. Rader, "'My Girl': Bill French Goes a Courtin'—The Old and the New in Missouri Ozarks Courtships, 1908-1913," *Missouri Historical Review*, July 2015.

Richard L. Schur, "Memories of Walter Majors: Searching for African American History in Springfield," in McIntyre, ed., *Springfield's Urban Histories*, 113-137.

Holly A. Baggett, "The Creation of a Community: A History of Gay and Lesbian Springfield, 1945-2010," in McIntyre, ed., *Springfield's Urban Histories*, 305-340.

Blevins, "Life on the Margins: The Diaries of Minnie Atteberry," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2016.

Blevins, "Reconstruction in the Ozarks: Simpson Mason, William Monks, and the War that Refused to End," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 2018.

Kimberly Harper, "What of the Farmer? World War II Comes to the Ozarks—The Creation of Camp Crowder," *Missouri Historical Review*, October 2016.

J. Blake Perkins, "Women and American Settlement in Territorial Lawrence County," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Summer 2016.

Janet Allured, "Ozark Women and the Companionate Family in the Arkansas Hills, 1870-1910," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 1988.

Ozark Films (Motion Pictures)

Here is a brief list of films about Ozarkers or set in the Ozarks that would be suitable for an Ozarks Journal reaction paper. Many of the older ones are not in circulation and thus next to impossible to find, but I put them on the list anyhow, just in case. Remember that this is not an exhaustive list. If you discover a film that is set in the Ozarks or primarily about people from the Ozarks but is not included on this list, please let me know.

"Swing Your Lady" (1938)

Any of the Weaver Brothers and Elviry movies from the 1930s and 1940s, such as "In Old Missouri", "Down in Arkansaw", "Arkansas Judge", "Tuxedo Junction", "Friendly Neighbors", "Grand Ole Opry."

Any of the "Lum and Abner" movies from the 1940s, such as "Dreaming Out Loud", "The Bashful Bachelor", "Partners in Time."

"I'm From Arkansaw" (1944) This film is available for downloading at http://www.archive.org/details/im_from_arkansas

"Puddin' Head" (1941)

"Joan of Ozark" (1942)

"The Arkansas Traveler" (1938)

"I'm From Missouri" (1939)

"The Voice of Bugle Ann" (1936)

"Girl of the Ozarks" (1936)

"Lil' Abner" (1959)

"Where the Red Fern Grows"; either of two versions, 1974 and 2003

"Bootleggers" (1974)

"Chrystal" (2004)

"A Painted House" (2003)

"Winter's Bone" (2010)

"Tomato Red" (2017)

Ozarks Television Series (If you choose a t.v. show, you should watch at least two episodes.)

“Ozark” on Netflix (three seasons)

“True Detective: Season Three” on HBO (released January 2019)

Ozarks Films (Documentaries)

“Shannon County: Home” (available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1R36AjgyGI>)

“Shannon County: Hearts of the Children” (available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ro4nSqls_bs)

“Just that Much Hillbilly in Me” (available online at <https://www.pbs.org/video/ozarkswatch-video-magazine-the-ozarks-just-that-much-hillbilly-in-me/>)

“Meth Storm” on HBO (2017)

“Mommy Dead and Dearest” on HBO (2017)

“Dogpatch, USA: An Average Stone-Age Community” (2018)

“Dogpatch, USA: The Life and Death of a Theme Park” (available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB3qJd7LyHA>)