

University of Southern Colorado

Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Field (1860-1960) Course Outline

- I. Course prefix and number** **Hist 591**
- II. Course Title** “Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Field (1860-1960)”
- III. Credit** 3.0 hours
- IV. Dates/Times** June 19-23, 2000
- June 19 8:00 am - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 pm
June 20 8:00 am - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 pm
June 21 8:00 am - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 pm
June 22 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (lunch time disc.)
and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (lecture)
June 23 8:00 am - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 pm
3 hours of additional contact time is built into the schedule after 5 in order to facilitate discussion with the instructors.
- V. Instructor** Dr. Dean Saitta
- VI. Office Location** University of Denver
- VII. Office Hours** By Appointment
- VIII. Telephone** Office: (303) 871-2680

IX. Course Description

This course focuses on the events from 1860 to 1960 in the southern Colorado coal field (which broadly runs between Trinidad and Walsenburg). These events were of national importance in changing the face of American industry, including its relationships to working men and women and its wider public image. Yet, paradoxically, this history remains "hidden" on both national and regional levels, having been overshadowed by histories emphasizing the romance of the Santa Fe Trail and the “Opening of the West”. The Institute will explore this hidden history and its national significance.

Themes and Resources

The Institute will include the following themes:

- Beyond the Santa Fe Trail: The Cultural History of Southern Colorado
- Immigration and Work in Southern Colorado
- The Ecology and Archaeology of industrial Relations in the Southern Coal Field
- The Coal Field War in Literature, Theater, and Music
- Work and Remembrance: The Legacy of Southern Coal Field History

X. Course Objectives

1. Led by Institute faculty, students will discuss the nature of industrial development in the area and its wider social and ecological context; employee-management relations; the intersection of immigration, ethnicity, and culture with these themes; and the legacy of industrial relations and labor movements in Colorado.
2. Students will explore a variety of perspectives on coal field events by bringing together the disciplines of history, archaeology, and literature.
3. Based on readings and research, students will be able to dialogue about the Ludlow Massacre and the Colorado Coal Field War with labor historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and literary scholars.
4. Students will have the opportunity to gain an intimate, local perspective on coalfield history through questions and answers with coal miners and their descendants on June 22.

XI. Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources:

Required Text prior to first day of Institute:

Buried Unsung: Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre by Zeese Papanikolas
(University of Utah Press, 1982).

Coal People: Life in Southern Colorado's Company Towns, 1890-1930 by Rick J. Clyne
(Colorado Historical Society, 1999)

The Death of Spring by Silvio J. Caputo, Jr.
(Ashley Books, Inc., 1984).

Supplemental Reading: A 250-page anthology of articles and historical documents.

Instructors

XII. Assignments, Evaluation Procedures and Grading Policy

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation. Each student is expected to read material prior to class and participate in class discussions.
2. Projects. One of the following projects will be completed by July 30, 1999.

- a. Research paper. Students may complete an eight to ten-page typed research paper about any aspect of “Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Fields.” Subject of paper must be approved ahead of time by Dr. Saitta. Papers must be delivered to Dr. Saitta by July 30, 2000.
 - b. Lesson plans. Students may complete a set of 15 lesson plans for their classroom related to “Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Fields”
3. Examinations. None will be given.

Grading

- 1. Papers or lesson plans not postmarked by the due date will be penalized 10% of the possible points unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. For each additional week, another 10% will be deducted from the total possible points.
- 2. Summary of points

Course attendance	40
Participation	20
Research assignment	<u>40</u>
	100

- 3. Grade Distribution
 - 91% - 100% A
 - 81% - 90% B
 - 71% - 80% C
 - 61% - 70% D
 - 60% and below F

Personnel

Faculty from Among the following

Dean Saitta, Ph.D. is a professor of anthropology and Director of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Denver. Dr. Saitta is closely involved with “Reach Out DU,” a program designed to work with K-12 teachers and students, and he will serve as lead scholar and the instructor of record for course credit.

Jay Fell, Ph.D. is an adjunct history professor at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Philip Duke, Ph.D. is a professor of anthropology and -director of the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. He is a leading expert in the cultural history of the Great plains.

Randall McGuire, Ph.D. is a professor of anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton and is an internationally recognized scholar in historical archaeology.

Julie Greene, Ph.D. is an associate professor of history at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Joanne Dodds is currently the Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Pueblo Library District and formerly a Colorado History Professor at the University of Southern Colorado.

Mark Walker is an archaeologist who holds a masters degree from Cambridge University. He is currently working on his doctorate from the University of Denver.

Margaret Wood is an archaeologist from the University of Denver.

Silvio J. Caputo, Jr. is the author of *The Death of Spring*. Mr. Caputo is a former history teacher and expert on the use of historical fiction in writing.