

Professor Ocean Howell
Email: ohowell@uoregon.edu
Office hours: Thursday, 1:45 - 3:45

HIST 410: History of Portland

Course Description

Portland is the principal urban center of Oregon, and one of the most important cities on the West Coast of the United States. With a history that is at once inspiring and troubling, Portland is a city of contradictions. A bastion of Progressive good-government reform, it also has a history of corruption; a center for liberal politics and tolerance, it was also the home of a large and influential chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, and engaged in active police repression of gay men; often described by lifestyle magazines as one of the most livable cities in the country, it was once considered one of the most dangerous port cities in the world; one of the birthplaces of the environmental movement, it has also served as a hub for resource extraction industries serving the entire Pacific Rim. This course will introduce students to the history of this Northwest Metropolis.

Learning Objectives (by the end of this course you will be able to . . .)

- Identify the main themes in the scholarly literature on Portland's history
- Understand the processes that guided the growth of Portland
- Understand the roots of racial segregation in Portland
- Understand how sexuality was policed in early-twentieth century Portland
- Read the built environment around them for cues about not only urban planning history, but also political and socioeconomic history
- Identify the research question, argument, source base, and methodology for a secondary source
- Write a historiographical essay

Readings

Course readings are selected from a variety of scholarly works, and from primary source documents and images. All readings will be made available electronically through Canvas.

Assignments/Grading

Participation and Short Assignments:	15% of total grade
Mapping Assignment	10%
Paper:	25%
Exam 1:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

NOTE: Failure to complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade

Participation and Short Assignments:

Participation will take place in the classroom and on Canvas discussion boards. Each week, the instructor will pose a question, or questions, about assigned readings in order to start conversation. Each student must both 1) respond to a question and 2) ask a question. The first student to respond each week will only have the option of responding to an instructor's question, but because that student will also pose a question, the next student (and all subsequent students) will have the option of responding to an instructor question, or a student question. Questions and responses should be oriented towards a critical analysis of the reading, rather than a subjective reaction. Discussions of whether we liked a reading, or whether we find it interesting are fine for casual conversation, but are ultimately rooted in subjective reactions. Better discussion topics include analysis of how authors use their sources, or critical comparisons of different course readings. If you're unsure about whether a question/response is appropriate, feel free to contact instructor. Unless otherwise stated, discussion posts will be due one half hour before class begins on Tuesdays.

Mapping Assignment:

Students will be asked to complete a mapping assignment, using historic fire insurance maps, which are made available through the UO library's website. Detailed prompt available under Assignments in Canvas.

Historiographical Research Paper:

Students will write a 4 to 5-page essay. Students will use the UO library's digital resources to locate two scholarly, peer-reviewed articles from a list of approved journals on whichever aspect of Portland's history most interests them. Student essays will advance comparative analyses of those scholarly pieces. Detailed prompt available under Assignments on Canvas.

Exams:

Exams will assess students' grasp on all course material (readings, lectures, and in-class exercises). Exams will include a mix of short identification questions and longer essay questions. Students will have 24 hours to complete exams.

Grading Policies

The exams cannot be accepted late. It is due 24 hours after having been made available.

Papers will be accepted late, but will drop by 1/3 of a letter grade immediately after the due date and time, and will drop by a further 1/3 letter grade for each subsequent 24-hour period.

A note on academic honesty: you are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it. Any instances of plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will result in a failing grade for the course, and will be reported to the university. If you have any questions at all, please come talk to me. Also please consult the library's Plagiarism Guide:

<https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism>

Contacting me

Email is best for short questions. If you have a substantive question, please come to my office hours.

Schedule (tentative)

Week 1, 3/28 - 4/1: *The Prehistory & Founding of Portland*

Reading: Carl Abbott, *Portland in Three Centuries: The Place and the People* (Oregon State University Press, 2011), Introduction, and Chapters 1 - 3.

Week 2, 4/4 - 4/8: *Growing Pains: Annexation and Progressive Reform*

Reading: Robert Johnston, *The Radical Middle Class: Populist Democracy and the Question of Capitalism in Progressive Era Portland, Oregon* (Princeton University Press, 2006), Parts II and III.

Week 3, 4/11 - 4/15: *Populism & its Discontents*

Reading: Johnston, Parts IV and V.

Week 4, 4/18 - 4/22:

Reading: Peter Boag, *Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest* (University of California Press, 2003), selections.

Week 5: 4/25 - 4/29

Reading: Mansel Blackford, *The Lost Dream: Businessmen and City Planning on the West Coast* (Ohio University Press, 1993), Chapter 5.

Discussion post due Tuesday, 4/26 at 11:30AM

Exam 1: available noon, Thursday 4/28; due noon, Friday 4/29.

Week 6: 5/2 -5/6

Reading the Built Environment: Walking Tours

Week 7: 5/9 - 5/13

Reading: Robert Donnelly, *Dark Rose: Organized Crime and Corruption in Portland* (University of Washington Press, 2011), selections.

Mapping project due, 5/12 at 11:30AM.

Week 8: 5/16 - 5/20

Reading: Donnelly, *Dark Rose*, continued.

Week 9: 5/23 - 5/27

Reading: Lucas Burke and Judson Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers: Empowering Albina and Remaking a City* (University of Washington Press, 2016), Introduction and Chapters 1 - 3.

Paper due: Thursday 5/26, 11:30AM.

Week 10: 5/30 - 6/3

Reading: Burke and Judson Jeffries, Chapters 4 and 5, and Conclusion.

Finals Week:

Exam 2

Available 8AM Tuesday, 6/7

Due 8AM Wednesday, 6/8