

GWS 100AC

March 8, 2016

- Final paper details:
 - Critical book review of wilderness adventure memoir (5-7 pages double spaced)
 - Do not choose Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*
 - By **April 1**, choose a book (with one paragraph on why you chose it)
 - How to write a book review: ([link here](#))
- Today we are going to look at what people do at national parks.
- Which bodies are imagined in engaging in national park stuff/outdoor recreation?
 - **Funny or Die video: Black Hiker**
 - Black guy getting racially profiled by white hikers
 - “I’ve never seen a black hiker before!”
 - Comedy can push at what’s acceptable to say. But it’s funny because it touches on an idea in the culture.
 - Wilderness came to be seen as a necessity, a national value.
 - A way in which national male (white) bodies could become stronger.
 - It was seen as a way to see that we were civilized; policing what bodies are able to do what in the parks
- African Americans have a complex relationship with land - brought to U.S. as slaves.
- We should be talking about labor relations with the and (AA seen out of place - subject to policing + violence).
- Interview with Carolyn Finney:
 - Settler colonialism has set aside structured places (segregation).
 - Redlining practices (“In the United States, redlining is the practice of denying services, either directly or through selectively raising prices...”)

- Wilderness carries anxiety for African Americans (violence for crossing some racial line).
- Camille Dungy: Inherited memory in wilderness, uneasy.
- The wilderness reiterates who is actually the most ‘American’.
 - Girl Scouts: we think of cookies! Merit badges are for ‘girl things’.
 - Boy Scouts: we think of merit badges/tying ropes. Also think LGBT controversy.
 - Reiterate definitions of national body.
- White people could appreciate the aesthetic of the wilderness because they were civilized.
 - Spence: Mexican-American war/Civil War galvanized a sense of nationalism and a xenophobic sense with respect to our borders
 - 19th century was also rapid expansion and escalating anxiety about race (fueled by peak of immigration and recently freed African Americans).
 - Perceived feminization of urban living = more anxiety.
- Notion of overcivilization = yikes. Gentlemanly masculinity was seen as prime example of American man. But these notions change very quickly and drastically
- These anxieties are fueled by this question: ‘what kind of national body do we need to participate in ongoing conquest of national territory?’
- Especially after Jim Crowe laws, it has to be articulated what it means to be a white man to distinguish oneself from a black man.
- Robust, manly, white bodies could be seen as securers of the nation. Also had to be a mobile body that could go out into the frontier.
- Columbus’s story is taken up and placed with settler colonialism logic (it was another name for opportunity):

Since the days when the fleet of Columbus sailed into the waters of the New World, America has been another name for opportunity, and the people of the United States have taken their tone from the incessant expansion which has not only been open but has

even been forced upon them. He would be a rash prophet who should assert that the expansive character of American life has now entirely ceased. Movement has been its dominant fact, and, unless this training has no effect upon a people, the American energy will continually demand a wider field for its exercise. But never again will such gifts of free land offer themselves.

Frederick Jackson Turner

- Frontier space can only be seen as empty is the pre-existing historical content is erased.
- Turner make explicit racial comments about the people moving into the frontier. Everyone else needs to be gone in order to make way for this pristine, romanticized experience.
 - Creates a shared past for everyone.
- Camping movement: boys are losing this national character of self-reliance. Camping is extended to boys (first) and girls in the name of national interest. Partially motivated by social darwinists/eugenicists.
- Suggests that with evolution comes progress. Herbert Spencer's 'survival of the fittest'.
- The overcivilization of boys was blamed on coddling mothers.
- And so, you see Campfire Girls and Girl Scouts. Taught marriage and motherhood as the ultimate goal.