

GWS 100AC

Decolonizing

March 17, 2016

- Attendance quizzes will now take place in class.
- Why are we doing things in this order?
 - Why are these ideas important? Why does it matter to denaturalize wilderness?
 - Nature is seen as a resource, to only be used by humans.
 - This kind of logic is actually consistent with the drive to *preserve* nature. (Dualism: human is the complete opposite of nature)
 - This dominant way of looking at nature has put the planet in a precarious situation.
 - There's a way in which human beings looking at nature as exploitable has led to devastation on groups of people in unjust ways.
- These questions of how we use nature reach a pinnacle in terms of stories of how we value nature.
- That concept of wilderness is deeply tied to being white and white masculinity.
- *Whiteness* and *white masculinity* also exist based on other races.
- The Anthropocene
 - A new geological epoch “in which the actions of human beings [have] affected the functioning of Earth’s physical systems”
 - The question: if humans are making these changes, what can we do about it?
 - There are other ways to imagine and form relationships with nature.
 - How do we do this? It has something to do with the stories we pass on to each other (i.e. we must decolonize).
- The wilderness should be seen as a mundane place where people make livings. See how women made livings.

- Hayden White: Historical writing rivals literary writing
 - Many historical writings are told as narratives.
 - We don't get the whole truth, instead we get a version of something that happened.
 - Mark David Spence's stories about national parks are important stories that often get ignored/left out.
 - * Looking at the social conditions that affected the formation of national parks lets us think critically about the event.
 - * In other words, at certain moments in time, certain things are see-able and say-able. We can criticize these things.
 - * Thinking about history critically has a lot of political importance.
- What is important in decolonizing is telling different histories. Telling those histories + critical thinking lens is necessary.
- Yosemite Indians were seen as blights on the landscape, unless they participated in showcases. They were only welcome in the park if they could fulfill the role of what a white man thought an Indian was.
- In the early 20th century, they were seen as something that had to be removed. *Ward v Race Horse* was the *Plessie v Ferguson* for Native Americans (P v F: enabled segregation for decades: "separate but equal").
- *Ward v Race Horse* essentially prevented Crow and Bannock from using lands. "*Haha what treaty?*"
- The treaty itself was based on a logic of elimination.
- The Yosemite Indians have been working with the park for two decades to get a cultural center / to be able to use the park for sacred practices. Still unfinished.
- Native groups are trying to create a national monument that will be managed by themselves. See <http://www.bearscoalition.org/>