History 461 traces the development of Alaska from the time of Russian contact to the present. Included are Native Alaskans at the time of contact, Russian occupation, acquisition by the United States, the turn-of-the-century gold rushes, the statehood movement, post-statehood development, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, and the Alaska Permanent Fund. The course fulfills both a writing intensive requirement and a State of Alaska Department of Education initial teaching certificate requirement in Alaska Studies. (Students taking the course for Graduate Credit as NORS F661 will follow the same course outline, but will have an additional research component for the paper. This will be negotiated with each student at the beginning of the class.)

Prerequisites: English 211x or 213x, History 275, junior standing or permission of the instructor

INSTRUCTOR: John Whitehead, Professor Emeritus of History, UAF
E-mail: j_whiteh@bellsouth.net Cellphone 706-308-6508 (ATT)
Office and hours: Gruening 604B, 3-3:45 PM MTWR and by appointment

OBJECTIVES:
Students in History F461-F71 will learn
   to think critically and write effectively about the past
   to understand and evaluate the most significant developments in Alaskan history
   to place Alaskan history in a national and global context

Students in History F461-F71 will also
   Acquire an understanding of different interpretations of Alaskan history
   For example, the “federal neglect” thesis, the “Seward’s Folly” thesis, the
   “Alaska as a permanent colony” thesis, and the “owner state” thesis

   Develop an understanding of how Alaska’s location and climate have affected and
   continue to affect the state’s history

   Learn how national policies, such as conservation and wilderness preservation
   have affected and continue to affect Alaska

ATTENDANCE POLICY
   Attendance everyday is expected. If a student has more than 3 absent days (for
   any reason) the term grade will be dropped by 10 points.
REQUIRED TEXTS:


Other Xeroxed “hand-outs” or reading materials will be handed out in class. Students should also acquire a copy of the *Alaska State Constitution*. Many students will have this and copies can be obtained easily from many sources, so this is not listed as a textbook at the bookstore. We will discuss on the first day of class how to obtain a copy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Exams:** There will be a mid-term (Fri. June 11) and a final examination (Fri. July 2)

**Writing Assignment:** Every student will complete a 7-10 page paper on a subject in Alaska history of his/her choice. The purpose of the paper is to expand your knowledge of a particular aspect of Alaska history in more depth than the course lectures. Possibly this might be a subject you would want to emphasize in a school class you might teach. You may even write the paper as if it was a presentation to your school class. The paper can be based on secondary or primary sources. It should include a bibliography and proper citations—which will be discussed in class. As part of the writing intensive designation a rough draft may be submitted. The topic must be chosen by the end of the first week or class. More details will be given at the beginning of the course. The first rough draft may be submitted up to June 24 and the final paper will be due July 1.

**Grading:** The various assignments will have the following weighting for the course grade

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term exam</td>
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**Extra Credit:** There will be an opportunity for up to 6 points of extra credit based on visiting various historical sites and museums in Fairbanks.

COURSE OUTLINE: (TENTATIVE)

Monday, July 7 Introduction to Course, Alaska Geography (Alaska’s Strategic Location) and Indigenous Native Groups
**Reading:** Haycox, Introduction.

Tuesday, July 8 Russian America—European Contact and the Fur Trade  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chaps. 1-2, Gibson, “Russian Dependence on the Natives of Alaska”

Wednesday, July 8, The Russian-American Co. and 19th Century Development  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chap. 3-5

Thursday, July 9, American and British Contact with Russian America: Establishment of the Border and the California Connection  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chap. 6

Monday, July 14 Sale of Russian America, Sumner’s Famous Speech, (the birth of “Alaska”), and Seward’s Folly  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chap. 7. Welch, “Public Opinion and the Purchase of Russian America”

Tuesday, July 15 Post-Purchase Alaska—Exploration or Neglect  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chaps. 8&9, Whitehead, Chap. 2 (32-42)  
**SELECTION OF PAPER TOPICS DUE**

Wednesday, July 16 Alaska Natives, Missionaries, and the First Organic Act

Thursday, July 15 Gold Rush Alaska and its Aftermath to 1910  
**Reading:** Haycox, Chap. 10

Monday, July 21 MIDTERM EXAM

Tuesday, July 22 Creation of the Alaska Territory and Dreams of a Railroad

Wednesday, July 23 The Territory of Alaska 1912-39: Mining, Fishing and a Few People  
**Reading:** Whitehead, 42-55; 210-216. Haycox, Chap 11.

Thursday, July 24 World War II: The Aleutians, the Highway, and Ernest Gruening  
**Reading:** Whitehead, Chap. 4

Monday, July 28 Alaska 1945-50: The Cold War and the Early Fight for Statehood  
**Reading:** Whitehead, Chap. 7
Tuesday, July 29  The Constitutional Convention and the Tennessee Plan
   Reading: Whitehead, Chap. 8; copy of the Alaska Constitution needed in class

Wed, July 30 “We’re In” National Politics and the Admission of Alaska and Hawai‘i
   Reading: Whitehead Chaps. 9&10

Thursday, July 31 “We Almost Went Belly-Up”: Post Statehood Alaska and the Discovery of Oil
   ROUGH DRAFT OF PAPER May be Submitted

Monday, August 4  Native Issues: The Alaska Equal Rights Act and ANCSA

Tuesday, August 5  Conservation Issues and ANILCA
   Reading: Haycox, Chap. 13

Wednesday, August 6  ANCSA: Worries in the 1980s

Thurs. August 7  Oil, the Legislature and the Alaska Permanent Fund
   Reading: Whitehead, “Principles and Interest”

Monday  August 11 Catch up with any late coursework and Alaska in the last 25 years.
   FINAL PAPER DUE

Tues, August 12  FINAL EXAMINATION

EXTRA CREDIT

The purpose of the extra credit is for you to visit an Alaska historical site or activity and write a very short summation (½ typed page) of what you saw and possibly if this site would be a good venue for taking a school class. Each one of these projects can count two points. You can do a maximum of three projects for a total of six points of extra credit. Below are four possible projects. You may clear another project with me in advance. It would be best if you would hand in your summation as soon as you do the project.

1) Gold Rush—Go to the Gold Rush Stampede exhibit at Alaskaland (Pioneer Park) and attend the show which is a revolving theater that features 12 major paintings by Rusty Heurlin. The shows are about every two hours. Cost is $2-3
2) ANCSA/Native Corporations: Go to the Doyon Headquarters in downtown Fairbanks and the nearby Morris Thompson Cultural Center or Check the online website of any of the 13 Regional corporations. Should be FREE

3) UA Museum—Go to the UA Museum and experience the exhibit on the Aleut Evacuation in WWII. Do read the book of guest comments there to find out how other people from around the nation have reacted. (If you have done the Aleut exhibit already, choose another specific exhibit that might appeal to a school class.) I think the UA Museum is free to UAF students.

4) Watch one of the recent statehood videos –e.g. The 49th Star, or Mr. Alaska :Bob Bartlett Goes to Washington. The videos should be available in the UAF library media collection