

# Appalachian Studies

**Maddy Dawson**

**Room 47**

**Fall 2025**

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**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Instructor:** Maddy Dawson

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## Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the Appalachian region with a particular focus on Cocke County, Tennessee. Students will explore the region's rich cultural heritage, historical development, and socio-economic issues. Through lectures, discussions, research projects, and hands-on activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the Appalachian way of life and its significance in American history.

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## Course Objectives:

1. **Understand the History and Geography of the Appalachian Region:**
    - Learn about the historical development of the Appalachian region.
    - Study the geographical features and how they influence life in Appalachia.
  2. **Explore Appalachian Culture:**
    - Examine traditional music, arts, and crafts of the region.
    - Discuss cultural practices, folklore, and oral traditions.
  3. **Focus on Cocke County, Tennessee:**
    - Investigate the history, economy, and culture of Cocke County.
    - Analyze local issues and how they reflect broader regional trends.
  4. **Develop Research and Presentation Skills:**
    - Conduct individual and group research projects.
    - Present findings effectively through oral presentations and written reports.
  5. **Engage in Group Activities:**
    - Collaborate on worksheets, discussions, and interactive projects.
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## Required Materials:

- Notebook and writing materials
  - Access to Chromebooks or laptops
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## **Course Schedule:**

### **Introduction to Appalachia**

- **Topics:** Geography, history, and demographics of the Appalachian region.
- **Activities:** Map exercises, group discussions on regional stereotypes and realities.
- **Assessment:** Open-note quiz on Appalachian geography and history.

### **Historical Context**

- **Topics:** Settlement history, industrialization, and economic changes.
- **Activities:** Timeline creation of key historical events; research assignment on historical figures.
- **Assessment:** Research project on the impact of industrialization in Appalachia.

### **Appalachian Culture**

- **Topics:** Music, arts, and crafts. Influence of European, Native, and African cultures.
- **Activities:** Group presentations on traditional Appalachian music and arts; guest speaker or virtual tour of local crafts.
- **Assessment:** Group presentation on Appalachian cultural practices.

### **Focus on Cocke County**

- **Topics:** History, local economy, and current issues in Cocke County.
- **Activities:** Research local history; field trip or virtual tour of Cocke County.
- **Assessment:** Written report on Cocke County's historical and current context.

### **Local Issues and Community Life**

- **Topics:** Social and economic challenges, community resilience, and local activism.
- **Activities:** Case studies of local initiatives; group discussions on local vs. regional issues.
- **Assessment:** Group project on a local issue in Cocke County and potential solutions.

### **Research Skills Workshop**

- **Topics:** Conducting research, citing sources, and presenting findings.
- **Activities:** Research methodology workshop; peer review of research drafts.
- **Assessment:** Draft of individual research project.

## Project Work

- **Topics:** Independent research projects on selected topics related to Appalachian Studies.
- **Activities:** Work time for research projects; instructor feedback sessions.
- **Assessment:** Final research project and presentation.

## Presentations and Reviews

- **Topics:** Presentation skills, review of course content.
- **Activities:** Student presentations of research projects; review sessions for final assessment.
- **Assessment:** Evaluation of presentations and participation in review sessions.

## Final Assessment and Reflection

- **Topics:** Course review and reflection on learning.
  - **Activities:** Open-note final test; reflective essays on course experiences.
  - **Assessment:** Final test and reflective essay.
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## Assessment Methods:

- **Open-Note Tests:** Covering key topics and readings.
  - **Research Projects:** Individual and group projects on various aspects of Appalachian culture and Cocke County.
  - **Presentations:** Group and individual presentations on research findings.
  - **Participation:** Engagement in class discussions and activities.
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## Grading Policy:

- **Open-Note Tests:** 30%
  - **Research Projects:** 30%
  - **Presentations:** 20%
  - **Participation and Group Activities:** 20%
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## Classroom Policies:

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is essential for participation in discussions and group activities.

- **Late Work:** Assignments must be submitted on time. Late work will be penalized unless prior arrangements are made.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All work must be original and properly cited.