

# HISTORY I

**Section Moderator: Dr. Brenda Jackson-Abernathy & Dr. Peter Kuryla**

**Room: Inman Health Sciences 342**

**Time: 2:00 – 4:30 PM**

**2:00 – 2:20**

**“Red Cloud’s Exclusion From Mount Rushmore: An Example of Native American Dismissal”**

Matthew G. Dotson

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Brenda Jackson-Abernathy

The Mount Rushmore monument in Keystone, South Dakota, is one of the largest tourist attractions in the United States. More than three million people visit the monument every year. They come to see the four sculpted faces of former presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt, each of which is more than sixty feet high. The majority of these tourists are unaware of some important facts, however. The four former presidents were not part of the original cast of characters considered for the monument, nor was Mount Rushmore the original planned site for the sculpting. The sculptures were originally supposed to include heroes of the West, including the great Red Cloud, former chief of the Oglala Sioux.

Red Cloud’s exclusion and the location of Mount Rushmore are just more strong examples of how the U.S. government has repeatedly dismissed the Native Americans throughout its history. For centuries, the values of the Native Americans have been disrespected by the government time and time again. This paper will reveal the dark history behind Mount Rushmore, describe the significance of the legendary Red Cloud, and examine a detailed history of Native American dismissal, showing why Native Americans such as Red Cloud have been forgotten throughout the course of history.

**2:20 – 2:40**

**“A Failure to Americanize”**

Hailey F. Whitters

Faculty Advisor: Brenda Jackson-Abernathy

Founded by Captain Richard Henry Pratt, Carlisle Indian School sought to provide a “white” education to Native Americans by attempting to strip them of their native culture and heritage and instead, instill more “American” values and traditions. However, despite his better intentions, his attempts to “Americanize” Native American children proved to be a failure due to his lack of knowledge and understanding of the Native American culture and his belief he could take the “Indian” out of the “man.” This essay seeks to provide readers with knowledge of

Carlisle Indian School's main goals and efforts to "Americanize" the native population, as well as inform of the outcome of the "Americanization" experiment.

**2:40 – 3:00**

**"Nitakyaio- The True Bear Fighting for Freedom in the Rocky Mountains"**

Nick K. Giordano

Faculty Advisor: Brenda Jackson-Abernathy

Grizzly bears roamed the North American continent millions of years before European colonization of the continent. The modern Grizzly bear slowly evolved over millions of years from small mammals known as Miacids. Humans interacted with Grizzlies for hundreds of years without dramatically affecting their population until the invention of the Sharp's Rifle in 1848. Within a hundred years, the Grizzly was wiped out of California. The demise of the Grizzlies is directly attributed to human actions including, but not limited to, destruction of habitat, needless killing for livestock protection, and the advancement and expansion of human civilization in the contiguous United States. In the last decade, efforts to protect and reintroduce Grizzlies in places like the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Bitterroot Mountains have been implemented. The Grizzly's battle for survival is currently taking place. With continued and effective protection, their numbers could raise to a sustainable level, turning the Grizzly's story into a success story.

**3:00 – 3:30 - BREAK**

**3:30 – 3:50**

**"The Roots of the Renaissance: Southern Literature in the 1920s"**

Bailey Cooke

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter A. Kuryla

In our popular national imagination, the 1920s rank among the most recognizable decades in American history. Most often, the American South registers only negatively during these years, a byproduct, no doubt, of the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925. In the era of Fitzgerald and youthful urbanity, Southern writers, then, in part reacting to material conditions around them or to infamous negative appraisals of their native soil (most notably that of H. L. Mencken), created a unique regional style. Their efforts collectively came to be called the Southern Renaissance in arts and letters. The roots of this classic period in Southern writing are complex, particularly when examined through a place--New Orleans--and in literary and personal relationships, especially between Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, William Faulkner, and Thomas Wolfe.

**3:50 – 4:10**

**"Al Capone: The Man behind the Gangster"**

Emily Hill

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter A. Kuryla

In many ways, the city of Chicago came to represent the excesses of 1920s. The emblem of modern American capitalism and business culture since the turn of the century, by the 1920s Chicago meant corruption, violence, and gangsterism. It is no surprise that the underworld boss Al Capone rose to national prominence during these years in the "city of broad shoulders." A symbol of the city, its delights, dangers, and excesses, Capone became a celebrity. The national media sensationalized his murderous exploits, while Capone cultivated the image of a family man and

savvy business tycoon. While responsible for several deaths, nothing conclusive was ever found to pin any murders on him. It follows that the truth remains shrouded in myth, which reveals some critical features of 1920s “ballyhoo.”

**4:10 – 4:30**

**“Consonance and Dissonance: Examining ‘Modern America’ Through the Jazz Age”**

James Mielke

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter A. Kuryla

Jazz is indefinable. Reasons for this are two-fold: not only is it an abstract term, the complexities of which elude clear meaning and inspire evocative literary uses, but the historical and cultural concepts often used to define jazz music invite slippage and evade precise demarcation. In other words, it is reasonable to assume that any fixed definition of “jazz” can almost be a hindrance to the music itself. Ingenuity is an essential element to the idea of jazz; the genre constantly evolves and re-invents itself. Whether the stylistic shifts that accented Miles Davis’s career (and in turn the dissemination of such shifts throughout the “jazz world”) or the music’s myriad influences from Debussy to Jimi Hendrix, jazz, because of its incessant borrowing, tends to transcend tight contextual boundaries and concepts. While respecting these complexities, a historical experiment of sorts might shed light in some dim corners by first, offering a working definition for jazz by considering its musical form, historical development, and varied cultural meanings. Once a theoretical explanation surfaces, the phrase “the jazz age,” used ever so freely to encapsulate the 1920s, will be examined by using the constructed “definition” to explore the historical idiosyncrasies that characterize the 1920s. The result will be a meditation on what can be thought of as “modern America,” and the consonances and dissonances that describe the temperament of the “Jazz Age.”