Explorers have ventured many places over the centuries, but mountains have had a special draw. Mountains have been viewed as both foreboding obstacles that divide peoples and spiritually significant points worthy of pilgrimage. Mountains have held both the promise of untold riches and the possibility of unforgiving terror. Some have been lured to the mountains for science, some for religion, some for personal glory, and others to harvest the earth’s bounty. Whichever the reason, pioneering mountaineer Elizabeth Knowlton noted that, “to those men who are born for mountains, the struggle can never end, until their lives end.” This course examines why people have explored mountains and the draw of reaching high altitude. Students will study first-hand accounts, literature, and primary sources of both historic and contemporary mountain journeys from around the world and compare them to their own experiences here in the Mountain West.

This course unfolds in both the classroom and the field. There are two required and one optional field trips into the mountains outside normal class time. The required excursions include a hike up the La Luz Trail in the Sandia Mountains (hikers will return via the Sandia Crest Tram; those not physically able to hike will ride the tram both ways) and up Tome Hill in Los Lunas. Dr. Lovata may also lead an optional warm up hike/field trip Sandia Mountains. There is a required $45.00 course fee to cover the cost of these excursions.

Readings
You are REQUIRED to purchase all books in the listed editions, which are available in the UNM Bookstore. You are also required to print the materials on electronic reserve at the library. You must bring books and copies of the digital readings to class when discussion is listed on the schedule.

- The Shameless Diary of an Explorer: A Story of Failure on Mt. McKinley by Robert Dunn (available as a pdf)
- A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains by Isabella Bird
- Into Thin Air by John Krakauer
- Nature Writings by John Muir
- The Ice Maiden: Inca Mummies, Mountain Gods, and Sacred Sites in the Andes by Johan Reinhard
The readings in digital format—including the Dunn book and a few other short selections—will be distributed as email attachments in pdf format.

**Grading**
As with all University Honors courses, only three grades are possible in this class—"A", “Credit”, or “No Credit”. There are no fractional grades (A+, A-, B+, etc.). This departmental policy encourages students to take demanding coursework without detriment to one's grade point average. Grades are based on a 1000 point scale with 10 points equaling 1% of the final grade. Letter grades are divvied on a 10% scale, thus an "A" is earned at 90% or 900 points and a “Credit” is earned between 700 and 899 points. There is no "curve" or grade adjustment—everyone has the opportunity to earn the highest grade based upon their own merits. No extra credit is available or given.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class of the date listed on each assignment. Work that is turned in late (without an excuse) will be docked 10% per day. In-class presentations CANNOT be done later or for partial credit unless the absence is excused. If you know you must miss a class in which you are to present a project, please contact your professor before the absence. Several of the projects in this course are cooperative, group work in which a single, same grade is given to the group as a whole. However, if a student fails to participate in the group, that individual may be given no credit for the project.

Grades are based on assignments and class participation. These assignments will be completed in a variety of forms: alone, in groups, in written form and in presentations. There are no tests or final exam. Class participation, and therefore attendance, is an essential part of this course. You are expected to come to class and talk. Attendance may not be taken everyday, but attendance will be noted at a variety of points throughout the semester.

Grading is as follows:
- Legacy Lectures, Workshops, and Assignments 100 points (see explanations [here](#))
- Reading Presentations/Projects 750 points (5 projects each worth 150 points)
- Class Participation 150 points (including attendance, in class assignments, class presentations, field trips and participation in seminar discussions)

**Absences**
Unexcused absences will severely and negatively impact your final grade. This is a seminar course and much material will be discussed only during class time. If you miss class and have a valid excuse, you must provide evidence (doctor's notes, etc...) as soon as possible. If you know you will miss class before hand, notify the instructor prior to the absence. Students who miss three or more classes (unexcused) will loose 10% of their of total class participation grade per day. No one who misses more than three classes (unexcused) can earn an “A” in this course.

**Accommodations for Disabilities**
Students who have special needs that may affect their ability to participate in this course are asked to disclose those needs to me as early as possible so appropriate accommodations can be made based on the recommendations of Student Services.

**Academic Dishonesty**
Students are expected to act according to the Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University. Work done in this class is essentially creative and should be of your own making. Plagiarism will
severely impact your grade in a negative way. Remember that if you improperly use material from the web, it is easily discerned as such. Your instructor will gladly provide you help in properly citing and crediting other’s work and ideas in your assignments.

**Writing**
Written material will form a significant component of your class work and final grade. Even Honors students and experienced writers can benefit from proofreading, editing, rewriting and practice. Therefore, all students will be required to attend at least one Honors Writing Lab Workshop. There are also many, free services available on campus to improve your writing skills. Especially useful is the CAPS program located in the Zimmerman library. You are encouraged to take advantage of these services and consult with others in the class for proofreading and review of drafts. Your professor will gladly review rough drafts of written work if they are provided sufficiently ahead of time.

**E-mail and the Web**
Students are expected to have e-mail and e-mail will be the preferable, primary form of out-of-class communication. Some of the readings are available online from outside sources. Occasionally these sites change or go down. If links to readings are not working, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. Finally, when sending materials to the professor, it is your responsibility to make sure that attachments are openable and readable.

**Schedule**
All readings listed are due on the first date listed and students are required to bring copies of readings to class on appropriate class days.

Aug. 18th (T)  
*An Introduction to the Legacy, Explorers, and Mountains*  
First Day of Class; Review of Course Assignments, Policies, and Procedures

Aug. 20th (Th)  
*John Muir: Classic Ideas of Exploration*  
Read: Muir’s “Snow Storm on Mount Shasta” p.634-648 and “Chronology” p.835-849

Aug. 25th (T)  
*John Muir: Classic Ideas of Exploration cont’d*  
Read: Muir’s *My First Summer in the Sierras* p.153-309

Aug. 27th (Th)  
*John Muir: Classic Ideas of Exploration cont’d*  
Read: Muir’s *My First Summer in the Sierras* p.153-309

Aug. 28th (F) or 30th (Sn)  
Required day-long hike up La Luz Trail or tram ride to the Crest in the Sandia Mountains; directions to be provided.  
Read: Muir’s *My First Summer in the Sierras* p.153-309

Sept. 1st (T)  
No Scheduled Class

Sept. 3rd (Th)
John Muir: Classic Ideas of Exploration cont’d
Read: Muir’s “God’s First Temples”, “Features of the Proposed Yosemite National Park”, p.629-633

Sept. 8th (T)
John Muir: Classic Ideas of Exploration cont’d
Read: Muir’s “The American Forests” and “The Wild Parks and Forests of the West” p.687-743

Sept. 10th (Th)
When Things Aren’t So Majestic
Read: Introduction to Dunn by Hoagland (e-reserves)
Assignment 1 Due

Sept. 15th (T)
No Scheduled Class

Sept. 17th (Th)
When Things Aren’t So Majestic cont’d
Read: Dunn’s The Shameless Diary of an Explorer (e-reserves)

Sept. 22nd (T)
When Things Aren’t So Majestic cont’d
Read: Dunn’s The Shameless Diary of an Explorer (e-reserves)

Sept. 24th (Th)
When Things Aren’t So Majestic cont’d
Read: Dunn’s The Shameless Diary of an Explorer (e-reserves)

Sept. 29th (T)
Men, Women and Mountains
Assignment 2 Due
Read: Bird’s A Lady’s Life in the Rockies

Oct. 1st (Th)
Men, Women and Mountains cont’d
Read: Bird’s A Lady’s Life in the Rockies

Oct. 6th (T)
Men, Women and Mountains cont’d
Read: Bird’s A Lady’s Life in the Rockies

Oct. 8th (Th)
Fall Break, No Scheduled Class

Oct. 13th (T)
Men, Women and Mountains cont’d
Read: Bird’s A Lady’s Life in the Rockies

Oct. 15th (Th)
Men, Women and Mountains cont’d
Read: Bird’s A Lady’s Life in the Rockies

Oct. 20th (T)
Honors College In-class Assessment (The Honors College has scheduled students in this class to participate in a period-long, in-class evaluation of a selection of courses. This assessment is not conducted by your instructor, has no relation to the topic of the class itself, is not part of the requirements for this course, and has no impact on your grade in this course.)
Assignment 3 Due Via Email Attachment by 5PM

Oct. 22nd (Th)
Mountain Pilgrimage
Read: Reinhard’s Ice Maiden

Oct. 27th (T)
Mountain Pilgrimage cont’d
Read: Reinhard’s Ice Maiden

Oct. 29th (Th)
Mountain Pilgrimage cont’d
Read: Reinhard’s Ice Maiden

Oct. 30th (S) or Nov. 1st (Sn)
Required day-long hike and study of pilgrimages at Tome Hill, Los Lunas; directions to be provided.
Mountain Pilgrimage cont’d
Read: Reinhard’s Ice Maiden

Nov. 3rd (T)
No Scheduled Class

Nov. 5th (Th)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains
Assignment 4 Due

Nov. 10th (T)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Read: Krakauer's Into Thin Air.

Nov. 12th (Th)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Read: Krakauer's Into Thin Air.

Nov. 17th (T)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Read: Krakauer's Into Thin Air.
Student Presentations

Nov. 19th (Th)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Read: Krakauer's Into Thin Air.
Student Presentations

Nov. 24th (T)
Thanksgiving Break, No Scheduled Class

Nov. 25th (Th)
Thanksgiving Break, No Scheduled Class

Dec. 1st (T)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Student Course Evaluations (attendance required)
Watch: Touching the Void

Dec. 3rd (Th)
Contemporary Exploration, Contemporary Mountains cont’d
Last Day of Classes
Watch: Touching the Void

Dec. 7th (M)
Assignment 5 Due Via Email Attachment by 5PM on Monday, December 7th

8/15 TRL