ENVIR 450B: Alaska Comes of Age
Instructio
ns for Paper 3

In writing Paper 3, please refer to the general guidelines for papers on the first page of the assignment for Paper 1. All of those guidelines apply for Paper 3.

Prompt for Paper 3:

During the fourth and fifth weeks of the class we explored the myriad ways in which the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay changed Alaskan society and politics, including the settlement of Alaska Native claims in ANCSA and the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Some of the major groups and individuals that influenced the course of events during this period were:

- The grassroots efforts of the Alaska Native people (primarily the Alaska Federation of Natives, or AFN),
- The “big three” oil companies (British Petroleum (BP), ARCO (today part of BP), and Humble (later Exxon, now ExxonMobil)), which formed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and later, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company,
- The environmental groups that organized to oppose the pipeline, formally called the Alaska Public Interest Coalition (APIC), or “the Alaska Coalition,” and
- Officials in government, including elected officials such as senators, congressmen, Alaska’s governor, and the US President, in addition to appointed officials, in particular the US Secretary of the Interior.

Your task in Paper 3 is to choose one of these groups or individuals (such as any listed above or another of your choosing) and to describe in detail how this entity was able to change the course of Alaskan history. The entity does not need to be the one that you think changed the course of Alaskan history the most, just one that you believe had a profound effect on an aspect of Alaskan society, politics, culture, people, or the Alaskan environment. Choosing your entity will be the easy part; the challenge will be to make a convincing, evidence-based argument for how this entity changed the course of Alaskan history in ways that are still apparent today.

You must describe the actions that your chosen entity took during the 1960s and/or 1970s that resulted in changes in Alaska. It is not sufficient, for example, to state simply that “the oil companies changed Alaska by building the pipeline;” instead you must describe the what the oil companies did that enabled them to build the pipeline. In practice, you must make two related arguments: the first for why the change caused by your entity is significant, the second for how this entity was able to cause such change.

In choosing the argument you will make in this paper, I suggest that you study carefully the available readings on these topics for sources of evidence to support your argument. An additional requirement for this paper is that you cite (either by paraphrasing or by direct quotation) at least two different sources. That is, you cannot base your paper entirely on evidence from a single source.
The relevant readings include:

- Chapter by Gruening (Ch. 25) about Alaska Natives.
- Chapters by Strohmeyer (Ch. 1, 4, 5, 7) about Alaska Natives and about the oil pipeline, available in the Course Pack and on eReserve.
- Chapters by Hensley (Ch. 12-18) about advocating for Alaska Natives, available on eReserve only.
- Chapters by Coates (Ch. 6-8) about the pipeline controversy.
- Chapters by Haycox (Ch. 3, 4, Ch. 5 partial) about many aspects of this era in Alaska.
- Article by Bob Anderson about Alaska Natives and unfinished business, available on eReserve only.
- Any section of the NRC report *Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope*. In addition to chapters 4 and 11 that we read for class, the full report is viewable online at The National Academies Press.

Remember, as you write and review your paper, continually ask yourself: **What is my argument? What evidence do I provide to support my argument? and Is this clear to the reader?**

As a final note, I encourage you to avoid selecting the most obvious entity for the basis of your paper. Strong arguments can be made for the significant influence of many individuals and groups, so if you can, try to choose one that you think might be different from those of your classmates. However, most important is that you **choose an argument you are confident you can support**. Of course, the entity you choose will not affect your paper grade; the quality of your argument will.

As always, I’m available for assistance as you write your paper – in evaluating your thesis, your writing, your sources of evidence, or just in making suggestions about the topic of your paper. You can email me at miner@u.washington.edu or come by my office, Kincaid Hall 442. I’m generally quite happy to be interrupted without warning.