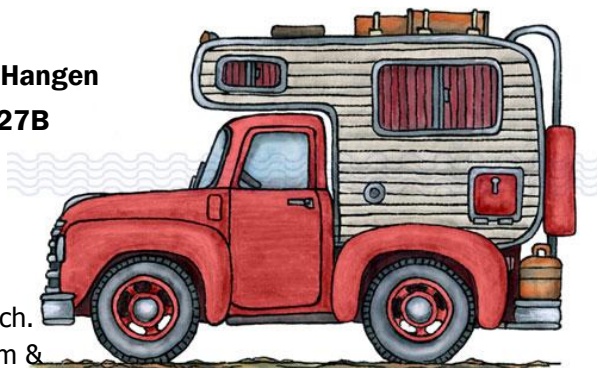


**HI 193-FS2 Roadside America**  
Fall09 TR 11:30-12:45 Room 320  
<http://tonahangen.com/wsc/hi193road>  
e: [thangen@worchester.edu](mailto:thangen@worchester.edu)

**Prof. Tona Hangen**  
**Office: S-327B**  
**x8688**



### **Course Description & Objectives**

This class weaves history, literature, popular culture and kitsch. We'll "tour" the country on its literary back roads, analyze film & television about traveling and road trips/tripping, and explore the history and scholarship of the US interstate highway system, national parks and monuments, America's love affair with autos, tourism, pilgrimage, memory and culture. From the redwood forest to the gulf stream waters... this land is your land, so embrace its bigness and weirdness.

As a first-year honors seminar, the course is also designed to give you an introduction to the rigors, joys, and challenges of college life. We will learn some specific skills that will help you in humanities and social science courses, we consider the HS-to-college transition, and we'll explore ways to achieve academic and personal success. This course is in the "Thought, Language and Culture" LASC content area.

### **Reading List**

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Penguin) ISBN 978-0140283297  
Bobby Ann Mason, *In Country* (Harper Perennial) ISBN 978-0060913502  
John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley* (Penguin) ISBN 978-0142000700  
Hunter S. Thompson, *Hells Angels* (Modern Library) ISBN 978-0679603313  
Susan Sessions Rugh, *Family Vacation* (Gibbs Smith) ISBN 978-1423601180

### **Course Requirements**

This course involves reading, writing, research and group discussion. It is set up as a seminar, not a lecture course. You will be expected to read 50-100 pages a week (sometimes more), and to write approximately 30 pages over the course of the term. You will need to put in consistent effort during the whole semester. You'll need research skills, which we'll enhance through targeted history labs. You'll need to speak up in class and demonstrate active learning, not passive absorption. Learning is not a spectator sport.

To take advantage of multiple learning styles, and to help create a community of learning in this classroom, this course will assess your progress in several different ways.

- **Attendance and participation** in class – I will take attendance in each class session. You should be on time and ready for discussion each day. I expect class discussion will be lively, respectful, and substantive, and that you will have done that day's assigned reading before class. Bring each day's reading assignment (book, article, whatever) with you to class so you can refer to it during our discussion. In addition, you get credit for your participation in the first-year seminar activities.
- **History "Labs"** – there will be 5 of these, each giving you experience analyzing different kinds of historical sources: primary documents, photographic images, scholarly articles, novels, and films.
- **Projects:** You'll produce three projects involving your own research and creativity. One will be a podcast profiling the quirkiest/oddest/most bizarre roadside attractions in one US state. The second

will be to imagine a road trip, and assemble a TripTik for it (A TripTik is a pre-GPS itinerary in map-book form). The third will be your final project, a "pilgrimage" writing assignment – which could take the form of a guidebook entry, memoir, short story, gonzo journalism, or script for a one-act play.

Your grade will be determined this way:

Attendance and Participation	10%	Silent attendance will not receive full credit
First-Year Seminar Stuff	5%	The mentor keeps track
History Labs 5 @ 10% each	50%	Due dates: 9/17, 10/1, 10/13, 10/22 and 11/12
Podcast	10%	Due date varies, according to signup P1 = 10/8, P2 = 10/29, P3 = 11/19, P4 = 12/3
TripTik	10%	Due on Thurs 11/5
Final Project	15%	Due on Tues 12/8
	100%	

## The Fine Print

- My in-class technology policy: we will be busy in every class session, and we don't need any technological distractions. Silence your cell phones before you enter the classroom. If you choose to bring a laptop to class, I expect that you will be using it **only** for taking notes or accessing the course's relevant electronic documents to refer to during discussion. Do not use your laptop in class to surf the internet, check your email, update your Myspace page, or the like.
- On papers and exams, doing your own work is absolutely essential – if you plagiarize a paper/assignment or cheat on an exam, you will get a ZERO on the assignment and you may also fail the class. In all your writing, you **must** cite the sources of any quotations, information or ideas which are not your own work. Please familiarize yourself with the college policy on Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook, and with proper citation formats (I prefer to see Chicago Style or MLA).
- If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise), and you need a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please consult with me immediately at the outset of the course so we can design a solution that will help you be successful in the class.

## Syllabus

	Topic	Date	Reading	Notes/ What's Due
<b>Week 1</b>	Course Intro	9/3		
<b>Week 2</b>	Early Travelers	9/8	Alexander Hamilton	Workshop: How to read a primary source
		9/10	Lewis and Clark	
<b>Week 3</b>	National Parks & the Lure of the American Wilderness	9/15	Turner thesis	
			TR, John Muir "Our National Parks"	History Lab #1 due
<b>Week 4</b>	Okies on the Road	9/22	WPA photographs <a href="#">New Deal Network</a> , <a href="#">LOC/FSA-OWI</a> and <a href="#">how to search the collection</a>	Workshop: How to read a photograph
	Route 66	9/24	In fable, song, story and a virtual trip	

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Notes/ What's Due</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	Cars with Fins, and the Interstate System	9/29	Patton Kemp, "The Occupational Ideology of Highway Design"	Workshop: How to Read a Scholarly Article
		10/1	Two-Lane Blacktop	History Lab#2 due
<b>Week 6</b>	Golden Age of Family Vacations	10/6	Rugh, excerpt from <i>Are We There Yet?</i>	
		10/8	Rugh, <i>Family Vacation</i>	Podcast 1
<b>Week 7</b>	Road Bad Boy I: Kerouac	10/13	Kerouac, <i>On the Road</i>	History Lab #3 due
		10/15	Kerouac, <i>On the Road</i>	Workshop: How to Read a Novel
<b>Week 8</b>	Biker Film Week	10/20	The Wild One	Workshop: How to Read a Film
		10/22	Easy Rider	History Lab #4 due
<b>Week 9</b>	Road Bad Boys II: Bikers	10/27	Thompson, <i>Hell's Angels</i>	Podcast 2
		10/29	Thompson, <i>Hell's Angels</i>	
<b>Week 10</b>	Buddy Road Trip Film Week	11/3	Fandango	
		11/5	Thelma and Louise	TripTik due
<b>Week 11</b>	One Man's Journey: Steinbeck	11/10	Steinbeck, <i>Travels with Charley</i>	
		11/12	Steinbeck, <i>Travels with Charley</i>	History Lab #5 due
<b>Week 12</b>	Truckers and Truck Stops	11/17	Big Rigs, John McPhee, "Land of the Diesel Bear" New Yorker 11/28/05	
	Truck Stops	11/19	Smokey & Bandit, Iowa PR Truck Stop	Podcast 3
	Roadside Food	11/24	Feasting on Asphalt	
Thanksgiving Break				
<b>Week 13</b>	Pilgrimage	12/1	"Finding Grace in the Land"	
		12/3	Mason, <i>In Country</i>	Podcast 4
<b>Week 14</b>	Course Wrap-Up	12/8	Pilgrimage Project Due	