HIST 444 surveys the social, environmental, economic, cultural, and political history of the Pacific Northwest from the period before European exploration to the present. Primary emphasis will be placed on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For generations, scholars who consider the Pacific Northwest as a “hinterland” have pointed to the lack of social, political, and economic power that, historically, has distinguished this region from other parts of the United States. Our challenge is to confront this narrative from multiple angles. We will examine what, precisely, makes the Pacific Northwest distinctive, as well as explore how its history, in many ways, reflects the national experience. Throughout the term we will keep the following questions in mind: In what ways has the Pacific Northwest shaped human activity? How have people shaped (and attempted to reshape) the Pacific Northwest? In addition to surveying significant events, trends, peoples, conflicts, and controversies in Pacific Northwest history, this course will concentrate on the historian’s craft. We will pay particular attention to how historians do history and construct interpretations from various types of evidence. Historical interpretation is “contested terrain” that involves creative investigation, careful documentation, critical thinking, logical analysis, and clear writing. Over the course of the term, students will be expected to develop, explain, and defend their own interpretations regarding a host of major issues in the study of Pacific Northwest history.