

BRIEF RESUME

J. William T. Youngs
Chair and Professor of History
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Education: Harvard (B.A., 1963), Berkeley (Ph. D., 1970)

Kenyon College: Assistant Professor 1970-1972
Eastern Washington University: Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor, 1972-present
Faculty Organization President, 2006-2007
History Department Chair, 2007-

Youngs has taught United States history courses in a variety of fields including colonial America, American environmental history, history of disease, historical writing and editing, the Pacific Northwest, and World War I.

Major Publications:

- *God's Messengers: Religious Leadership in Colonial New England, 1700-1750* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1976 - winner, American Society of Church History's Brewer Prize)
- *American Realities: Historical Episodes from the First Settlements to the Present* (two volumes -- Boston: Little, Brown, 1981; Japanese translation, 1984; Eighth Edition: New York: Pearson, 2010) – included new essay on Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War.
- *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Personal and Public Life* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1985 – now published by Addison, Wesley, Longman – Third Edition, 2005. Also large print and Books-on-Tape editions; Romanian translation, 1997)
- *The Congregationalists* (Stanford, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1990)
- *The Fair and the Falls: Spokane's Expo '74, Transforming and American Environment*. (Cheney: Eastern Washington University Press, 1996 -- Washington State Governor's Writers Award)
- *Timeline* author for entire world history timeline for Microsoft's multimedia encyclopedia, *Encarta* (1993 and subsequent editions).

His future writing plans includes a book the Mullan Road and beyond that, Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond, focusing on “becoming Thoreau.” Youngs is also developing skills in the area of historical film-making and editing, with help from federal Title III grants (2003-2005) and continuing assistance from personnel of the Teaching and Learning Center at Eastern Washington University.

Youngs has received research grants from the American Philosophical Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he is a recipient of the Trustees Award and the Burlington Northern Award from Eastern Washington University for excellence in teaching and research.

He was lead historian for a three-year project (2002-2005) called "Pathways to History," funded by a recent "Teaching American History" grant from the Department of Education.

During 2004-2005 he broadcast a weekly commentary on history, teaching, and politics on KEWU at Eastern Washington.

Editor of the *Pacific Northwest Forum* for twenty years, he now teaches and develops Internet materials in Inland Northwest History. He wrote the lead article on Washington in 1889 for the Centennial edition of *Washington Magazine*. He published many book reviews in the *Seattle Times* as well as in scholarly journals.

Youngs has served on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Commission for the Humanities, and he has led five sessions of the American Studies Conference for Finnish Teachers, which took place in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California, 1986-1991. In public service, created a citizen's rights groups for an elderly care facility in Redmond, Washington, and edited a newsletter for the family council.

He was president of the Faculty Organization at Eastern Washington (2006-07) and Chair of the History Department (2007-) and Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Council at Eastern.

He has presented papers to the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, the Pacific Northwest History Conference, the Popular Culture Association, the American Society of Church History, and the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA. He has lectured at the University of Washington, the University of British Columbia, Stanford University, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and several universities in Finland.

In *American Realities* Youngs wrote thirty essays focusing on individuals and events in American history, on topics as diverse as the death of a Puritan woman, the rise of Andrew Carnegie, and the bombing of Hiroshima. These essays were his "apprenticeship" in a new kind of historical writing which combines the evocative techniques of fiction with the scholarly research of conventional historical scholarship.

Youngs is particularly interested in questions of historical writing *style*—as suggested by this passage which he wrote in his journal while working on Eleanor Roosevelt:

"I want to tell the stories of American history as though I were among friends, sitting beside a fire...."

Recent Work

American Realities: Historical Episodes from the First Settlements to the Present, Eighth Edition, Two Volumes (New York: Pearson, 2010) – I wrote two new essays for the new edition: one titled “The ‘Taming’ of the West: Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War,” and “The Texas Revolution: Lorenzo de Zavala and Sam Houston.”

“Henry David Thoreau as Historian” – Paper presented to the Bay Area Seminar in Early American History, October 25, 2009, and to the Pacific Northwest Early Americanists, November 14, 2009.

“Henry David Thoreau and The Transformation of America” (Working Title) – Book proposal submitted to Pearson, November 6, 2009.

“Henry David Thoreau’s Visits to the Maine Woods in the 1840s and 1850s and the Birth of American Environmentalism,” Eastern Washington University Chautauqua, June 3, 2009.