The Building of America

Course Description:
During the 19th Century, the settlement and expansion of the continental United States was made possible by significant large-scale engineering projects that took place between about 1790 and 1880. This course will look at the 10 most important engineering works that created the first series of successful projects in civil infrastructure in the U.S. These projects will include the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Allegheny-Portage Railway, the Eire Canal, the Old Croton Aqueduct, the Transcontinental Railroad and other projects. These projects represent the first national public works in the development of rail and water transportation for the movement of goods and people as well as fresh drinking water for the nation that would lead to the development of other similar projects. Students will work in teams to research individual projects and the Engineers who directed these works. An oral presentation will be required at the end of the semester. Similar local projects, such as the South Hadley Canal, the Hoosac Tunnel and the Merrimac Canal will be discussed to show how these projects were related to larger national projects.

Season Course Is Offered: Spring
Meeting Day: Tuesday
Instructor First Name and Middle Initial: Alan
Instructor Last Name: Lutenegger
Instructor Email: lutenegg@ecs.umass.edu
Course Time: 1:00pm - 1:50pm

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