

History 178
History of the American West
Fall, 2005

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Office Hours:
Monday 10-12,
Wednesday 11-12, 2-4,
and by appointment

This is a history of the Trans-Mississippi West from first settlement by native Americans to the present. Topics include the coming of the Spaniards, American settlement; the Indian Wars, the cattlemen's, miners' and mining frontiers; women in the west; labor and racial conflict and the West in the twentieth century.

Readings:

Walter Nugent, *Into the West**

Ramón Gutiérrez, "The Spanish Conquest of New Mexico," from
When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away on Blackboard

Henry Nash Smith, *Virgin Land**

Louise Clappe, *The Shirley Letters**

Alexander Saxton, "The Workingmen's Party," from *Indispensable Enemy: Labor and the Anti-Chinese movement in California on Blackboard*

John Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks**

* Available for purchase in the bookstore

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class and take part in the discussions of the readings. Part of each Thursday's class will be a discussion of that week's reading. You should come to class on Thursday have completed the reading and prepared to discuss it. There will be at least two in class quizzes on the readings. There are two exams -- the midterm on October 12 and a final. A term paper of twelve pages will be due on December 7 (see attached sheet). A two-page paper proposal is due September 21.

Students taking this course for graduate credit should talk to me about additional

assignments.

<u>Grading Breakdown:</u> Attendance, Participation and Quizzes	25%
Midterm	20%
Term Paper	30%
Final	25%

Course Web Site:

The Syllabus, including class schedule and online readings are posted on *Blackboard*. Handouts, announcements and additional information will be posted here during the semester.

Term Paper:

A typed twelve page paper is due December 7. On September 21 a two-paper proposal is due -- one page explaining the topic, the second giving a bibliography. The subject is up to you, but pick a topic that reflects the distinctiveness of western history and not simply an event that happened in the west. Your primary must include at least three primary sources.

Below are examples of possible topics. If you are unsure of a topic come and talk to me about it.

Persons: John C. Frémont, explorer and politician; James Beckwourth, mountain man; Red Cloud, Lakota Indian chief; William Ashley, trapping entrepreneur; Willa Cather, Nebraska novelist; Helen Hunt Jackson, western author and Indian policy reformer; Walter Prescott Webb, historian; Harry Bridges, longshoremen's union leader; Henry Kaiser, industrialist

Events: Texas Revolution; Sand Creek Massacre; Comstock Lode; San Francisco earthquake; Mountain Meadows Massacre; Johnson County War; Clark-Daly feud; Newlands Act; EPIC Campaign; Seattle General Strike; Zoot Suit Riots

Process: The decline of the buffalo; women in the California gold rush; the Californios after the Mexican-American War; railroad-sponsored migration to the West; the migration of African-American "Exodusters" west; prostitutes; Japanese migration to San Francisco; Mormon migration to Utah; women's suffrage in the west; the rise and fall of the aircraft industry in Southern California.

Date	Lectures and Assignments
August 31	Lecture: What is Western History? Reading: Nugent, chapter one
September 7	Lecture: The Western Environment Reading: Nugent, chapter two
September 12 September 14	Lectures: The Indian West The Spanish Legacy Reading: Gutiérrez (On <i>Blackboard</i> and on reserve at Gelman Library)
September 19 September 21	Lectures: U.S. Government Indian Policy U.S. Government Land Policy Reading: Smith, Parts One and Three Term paper proposal due -- September 21
September 26 September 28	Lectures: White Invasion of the West Civil Wars and Indian Wars Reading: Nugent, chapters three, four, five
October 2 October 4	Lectures: The Miner's West The Cowboy's West Reading: Shirley, entire book
October 10 October 12	Lecture: The Farmer's West Western Society Reading: None Midterm Exam -- October 12
October 17	Lectures: Western Society (cont.) Social Conflict in the West
October 19	Reading: Saxton (On <i>Blackboard</i> and on reserve at Gelman Library)

Date	Lectures and Assignments
October 24 October 26	Lectures: New Peoples (1) The Final Indian Wars Reading: Nugent, chapter six
October 31 November 2	Lectures: The Dawes Act The Ghost Dance Reading: Niehardt, entire book
November 7 November 9	Lectures: The West in Popular Culture The Dust Bowl, Depression and New Deal Reading: Smith, Book Two
November 14 November 16	Lectures: John Collier and the Indian New Deal Japanese Internment and the West in World War Two Reading: Nugent, chapters seven and eight Optional drafts due -- November 16
November 21	Lecture: Indians in the Twentieth Century Reading: None
November 28 November 30	Lectures: Indians in the Twentieth Century (Cont.) New Peoples (2) Reading: Nugent, chapters nine and ten
December 5 December 7	Lectures: Cities in the West Review Session Reading: None Term Paper due December 7