

Dr. Quenby Hughes
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Rhode Island College
Fall 2007
TTh 11-12:20, Gaige 311

History 350: History of the American West

The American West has captured the fancy and imagination of men and women throughout the world and across centuries. This course will examine major themes in the history of that region including cross-cultural encounters, social and class conflict, environmental use and misuse, and the significance of the west as an important idea in American democracy and identity.

Required Texts:

Milner, Butler, Lewis, *Major Problems in the History of the American West*
Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks*
Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush*
Utley, *High Noon at Lincoln*
White, *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River*



Assignments and Grade Percentage:

Research Paper: 10-15 pages on a topic of your choice, to be approved by the professor. The paper should present a well-evidenced and interesting argument supported by primary and secondary sources. 25%

Critical Book Review and Discussion Leadership: Each student will be assigned one of the four scholarly books to be read for this class, for which she or he must write a 5-page critical book review. He or she will then join a small group of students in leading a discussion of that book in class. 15%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Participation and Discussion Questions: 10%

Paper Research and Format:

Students are required to use a variety of sources, including scholarly books, academic articles in journals and primary sources. Because many websites are unreliable sources for historical information, however, **unapproved websites will not be accepted as sources for the paper assignments.** If there is a particular website that you believe is useful for your subject, or which is an archival collection of primary sources, feel free to get it approved by the professor.

These essays should include necessary footnotes in order to indicate where you discovered each piece of information in the source, and a bibliography which lists all of the sources you consulted (even if not cited in the paper itself). The footnotes and bibliography should conform to the Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style form.

Academic Honesty:

Copying material in part or in whole from any other source (internet, encyclopedia, book, friend, etc.) without properly attributing that material to its actual author is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden, and will result in at least a failing grade for that assignment. Please see the college policy on plagiarism in the handbook for more information.

Class Topics and Readings:

<p>Week 1: Defining the American West</p>	<p>Thursday 9/6</p>	<p>Milner Ch. 1 Schedule Outing: <i>310 to Yuma</i> or <i>The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford</i></p>
<p>Week 2: Cultures, Contact and Conflict</p>	<p>Tuesday 9/11</p>	<p>Milner Ch. 2</p>
	<p>Thursday 9/13</p>	<p>Milner Ch. 3 In-class Film: Selections from <i>Dances With Wolves</i></p>
<p>Week 3: “Natives:” In Imagination and Reality</p>	<p>Tuesday 9/18</p>	<p><i>Black Elk Speaks</i> (begin reading first half)</p>
	<p>Thursday 9/20</p>	<p><i>Black Elk Speaks</i> (discussion today) _____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Week 4: Politics and Policies</p>	<p>Tuesday 9/25</p>	<p>Milner, Ch. 4</p>
	<p>Thursday 9/27</p>	<p>Milner, Ch. 5 <i>Research Paper Proposals and Meetings with QH</i></p>
<p>Week 5: Gold!!</p>	<p>Tuesday 10/2</p>	<p>Johnson, <i>Roaring Camp</i> (begin reading first half)</p>
	<p>Thursday 10/4</p>	<p>In-class Film: Selections from <i>Klondike Annie Roaring Camp</i> (discussion on first half today) _____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Week 6: Cowboys, Outlaws and Violence</p>	<p>Tuesday 10/9</p>	<p>Milner Ch. 6</p>
	<p>Thursday 10/11</p>	<p>Utley, <i>High Noon in Lincoln</i> (discussion on first half) _____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Week 7: Billy the Kid: In Imagination and Reality</p>	<p>Tuesday 10/16</p>	<p>Utley, <i>High Noon in Lincoln</i> (second half) _____ _____ _____ _____</p>

	Thursday 10/18	In-class Film: Selections from <i>Young Guns</i> Take-home Midterm Due
Week 8: Whores, Wives and the Wild, Wild West	Tuesday 10/23	Milner Ch. 7
	Thursday 10/25	Johnson, <i>Roaring Camp</i> (discussion on second half) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Week 9: Social Unrest and Uneasy Solutions	Tuesday 10/30	Milner Ch. 8
	Thursday 11/1	Milner Ch. 9
Week 10: Dry Wells and Deserts	Tuesday 11/6	Milner Ch. 10
	Thursday 11/8	Milner Ch. 11
Week 11: Environment: Design or Destruction	Tuesday 11/13	White, <i>The Organic Machine</i> (begin reading first half)
	Thursday 11/15	White, <i>The Organic Machine</i> (discussion) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Week 12: Race, Ethnicity and the Shaping of the West	Tuesday 11/20	Milner, Ch. 12
	Thursday 11/22	No Class: Thanksgiving
Week 13: Modern Cities, Modern Conflict	Tuesday 11/27	Milner, Ch. 13 and 14 <i>Rough Draft of Paper Due</i> <i>Meetings with Prof. Hughes this Week Regarding Paper.</i>
	Thursday 11/29	Student Presentations
Week 14: Student Research Conference	Tuesday 12/4	Student Presentations
	Thursday 12/6	Student Presentations
Week 15: Imagining the West	Tuesday 12/11	Student Presentations
	Thursday 12/13	Student Presentations Milner, Ch. 15 <i>Final Papers Due</i>