

**History 3310**  
**History of the American West**  
**Sul Ross State University – Alpine, Texas**  
**Spring 2016**

**INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Judith Parsons**  
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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**2:00 -3:30pm TTH**  
**Other hours by appointment**

This is a survey course of the history of the American West. We will use a combination of topical and chronological organization. We will concentrate on the area west of the Mississippi River during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. There is no textbook so it is very important that you attend class in order to get the material presented in class. In addition, you will be reading material from the Wildenthal Library for individual book reports. There will be some resources online through the Library that you will be expected to use as well. You will view some videos in class and possibly outside of class as well. You will be expected to do a video evaluation for each one. If you are not in class when the video is shown, you will need to arrange to see it in order to turn in a video evaluation. The role of geography in the settling of the American West is very important and you will have a list of places to locate and a map examination.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**The graduating student with a BA in history will:**

1. Develop an informed, critical, and articulate approach to the study of history.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of historical events, movements, major turning points and personalities of the past.
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and relate the role that historical interpretation plays in assessments of the past.
4. Write effectively, logically and persuasively about topics in history.

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS** will be determined by the following class assignments:

Examinations 1 and 2 and the Final Examination which include both objective and essay questions will assess PLOs 1, 2, 3 & 4

Book Reviews will primarily assess PLOs 3 & 4

Map Test primarily will assess PLO 2

Journal Reviews primarily will assess PLOs 1, 2, & 3

Video Reviews primarily assess 1 & 3

**GOALS FOR THE COURSE:** Students who have successfully completed History 3310 should have acquired the following competencies:

1. The student should have a working knowledge of the major geographic features of the Trans-Mississippi West and understand the relationship between history and geography in the American West, the interaction of physical environment and human societies in the region during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and the impact of culture and society on the environment.
2. The student should understand the significance of the westward movement in the United

States history and recognize the political, economic, social and cultural consequences of territorial expansion, especially in various economic enterprises such as the fur trade, Santa Fe trade, ranching, farming, mining and transportation.

3. The student should understand the origins, key events, and major social, economic, and political consequences of the U.S.- Mexican War and be able to evaluate the long range impact of that period on United States society.
4. The student should be able to distinguish between the commonly-held stereotypes of the people who lived and worked in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American West and the real historical people.

#### **CLASSROOM COURTESIES:**

1. No hats or caps will be worn in the classroom.
2. No tobacco in any form.
3. You may bring coffee or soft drinks into the classroom, but please remove the empty containers.
4. No audio or video recorders except in cases of physical disability with advance approval of the instructor.
5. You are expected to be attentive and take notes.
6. Please arrive promptly – but if you arrive after class begins, please come into the room as quietly and unobtrusively as possible.
7. **Turn off and put away all electronic equipment such as cell phones, beepers, MP3s, iPods, tablers and laptops.**

#### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY.**

**Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail is mschwartz@sulross.edu.**

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be two major examinations and the final examination (150 points each), the map quiz (150 points), two book reviews (100 points each), video reviews (100 points) and attendance (100 points) for a total possible 1000 points.

900 – A

800 – B

700 – C

600 – D

Below 600 – F

**Map Quiz.** You will need to be able to locate on a map places on the Places to Locate handout. You also have a handout with copies of maps which might be helpful. There are atlases in the Library and you may also locate many of these places online. The map quiz will be

given on **Thursday, February 4, 2016**. On the quiz, you will receive a map with places indicated by numbers. On the attached answer sheet, you will write the name of each place in the blank space by each number. You will receive a copy of the possible answers. **The Map Quiz requires a lot of advance preparation – start working on the list right away.**

**Book Reviews.** You will be required to **read two books and write a review of each.** You will receive a list of possible books and a form to follow for the book review. The **1<sup>st</sup> Book Review** will be due on SafeAssign by 12:00 midnight and the hard copy handed in to the BASS office by 5:00 pm **Friday, March 11** . The **2<sup>nd</sup> Book Review** will be due on SafeAssign by 12:00 midnight and the hard copy handed in to the BASS office by 5:00 pm on **Friday, April 22**. Late reviews will be penalized one letter grade (10 points) and will not be accepted later than one week from the due date. Each book review will be worth 100 points.

### **Additional Readings:**

Since there is no textbook for this course, I encourage you to read essays in *The New Encyclopedia of the American West* on topics you do not understand or want to know more about. Howard R. Lamar (ed.), *The New Encyclopedia of the American West* (Yale, 1998) is one of the major reference works in the history of the American West . There is a copy in the Wildenthal Library (abbreviated in the Syllabus NEAW) and you also can access it online at <http://www.credoreference.com/book/americanwest> . **You may be required to read some essays from the NEAW** and others will be recommended.

Historian Susan Lee Anthony described it as follows: “This is no boring compendium of useless facts, but rather a curious collection of brief, readable essays on an extraordinary range of topics written by some of the leading practitioners in the field of western history.” I think you will find it especially helpful in preparing for your two examinations and the final examination.

**Video Reviews:** There will be several videos shown in class. You will be expected to write a review of each video within one week of the video being shown in class. If you are not in class when the video is shown, you will need to see it in order to turn in a video evaluation. Video reviews will be turned in on SafeAssign and in hard copy. The video reviews will together comprise 100 points of your grade.

**ATTENDANCE:** It is very important that you attend class regularly and punctually and points for class attendance are part of your course grade.

100 points	no absences	70 points	5-6 absences
90 points	1-2 absences		
80 points	3-4 absences		

You may be dropped from the course with a grade of F for excessive absences if you are absent for more than 9 class periods (6 class periods in an hour and a half class; this is University policy). If you come into class after roll has been taken, **it is your responsibility to tell the instructor after class that day that you are present.** The instructor may decide that the student arrived so late that he/she will not be counted as being present. **The instructor’s records will be the deciding factor in determining the number of absences for each student.**

**MAKE-UP EXAMS.** If you miss the Map Quiz or 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Examination, you need to take the make-up at the time set by the instructor. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor immediately about scheduling the make-up at her convenience. Make-ups in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences will be given on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**EXTRA CREDIT.** You may receive extra credit for some events on campus.

**ON WRITING WELL.** The members of the history faculty believe that it is important that students be encouraged to write well in classes other than English. Therefore, you will have essay questions and/or identifications on your exams. You are expected to express your ideas clearly with complete sentences, good organization and coherent prose. You may have points deducted for spelling and major grammatical errors on any and all written work.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY.** You are responsible for reading the statement on Academic Honesty in the current Sul Ross State University Student Rules and Regulations. All assignments prepared outside of class will be submitted on Blackboard using SafeAssign which will catch plagiarism from the Internet and other students' papers. **The history faculty consider academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly.**

**HISTORY 3310**  
**HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Dates are approximate and may be modified by the instructor as needed.**  
**Fall 2013**

Tuesday, January 19 – Introduction of the Course and its Requirements

Thursday, January 21 – Lecture on Frederick Jackson Turner and the “New Western History”  
**NEAW:** Frederick Jackson Turner, frontier theory, western history 1970-90s

Tuesday, January 26 – Lecture on Western Exploration  
**NEAW:** Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06), Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Louisiana Purchase, Stephen H. Long, Great American Desert, John Charles Fremont, Kit Carson

Thursday, January 28 – Lecture on Western Exploration

Tuesday, February 2 – Lecture on Western Exploration and the Fur Trade  
**NEAW:** Manuel Lisa, trappers, William Henry Ashley, fur trade in the U.S., Hudson’s Bay Company, Jedediah Strong Smith, James Bridger, Rocky Mountain Fur Company

Thursday, February 4 – **Map Quiz**

Tuesday, February 9 – Lecture on the Fur Trade

Thursday, February 11 – Lecture on the Fur Trade

Tuesday, February 16 – Lecture on the Santa Fe Trade  
**NEAW:** Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trail, William Becknell, Bent’s Fort, Bent Brothers,

**Thursday, February 18 – 1<sup>st</sup> Examination**

Tuesday, February 23 – Lecture on the Settlement of Oregon and Texas  
**NEAW:** Protestant missionaries, Oregon Trail, South Pass, Oregon (read only to the Civil War), Marcus Whitman, Henry Harmon Spalding, Stephen Fuller Austin, empresario system, Sam Houston, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Texas (read only to the Civil War)

Thursday, February 25 – Lecture on the Settlement of Oregon and Texas

Tuesday, March 1– Lecture on the Settlement of Oregon and Texas

Thursday, March 3 – Lecture on California and the background to the U.S.-Mexican War

**NEAW:** Thomas Oliver Larkin, Mexican War (1846-1848), Zachary Taylor, Stephen Watts Kearny, Winfield Scott, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo  
Tuesday, March 8 – Video “U.S. Mexican War”

Thursday, March 10 – Video “U.S. Mexican War”

**Friday, March 11 – 1<sup>st</sup> Book Review Due on SafeAssign by 12:00 midnight and hard copy handed in by 5:00 pm**

**MARCH 14 - 18 – SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES**

Tuesday, March 22 – U.S.-Mexican War

**NEAW:** Thomas Oliver Larkin, Mexican War (1846-1848), Zachary Taylor, Stephen Watts Kearny, Winfield Scott, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Thursday, March 24 – Lecture on U.S.-Mexican War

Tuesday, March 29 – Lecture on The Mormons and the Settlement of Utah

**NEAW:** Latter Day Saints, Joseph Smith, Jr., Brigham Young, Mountain Meadows Massacre, Mormon Trail, Mormon War, polygamy

Thursday, March 31 – Lecture on The Mormons and the Settlement of Utah

**Tuesday, April 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Examination**

Thursday, April 7 – Lecture on the Mining Frontier

**NEAW:** mining, metal; mining towns; mining law; Comstock Lode; copper mining; War of the Copper Kings; gold and silver rushes; gold rush towns of California

Tuesday, April 12 – Lecture on the Mining Frontier

Thursday, April 14 – Lecture on the Mining Frontier

Tuesday, April 19 – Lecture on the Ranching Frontier

**NEAW:** cattle industry; cattle associations; cattle towns; cowboy

Thursday, April 21 – Lecture on the Ranching Frontier

**Friday, April 22 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Review Due on SafeAssign by 12:00 midnight and hard copy handed in by 5:00 pm**

Tuesday, April 26 – Lecture on the Ranching Frontier

Thursday, April 28 – Lecture on the Ranching Frontier

Tuesday, May 3 – Lecture on The American West in Myth and Reality

**NEAW:** Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, Wild West Show, Frederick Remington

**Thursday, May 12 – Final Examination**