

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Honors History of the American West

Instructor: Dr. Chris Huggard, BH 2008, phone: 619-4270, chuggard@nwacc.edu

Office Hours: 9-10:15am, Monday-Thursday

Course Text: See Readings in Course Outline (below)

Course

Description: A History of the American West from prehistoric times to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Anglo Americans, and other groups who settled the region of the West (west of the 100th Meridian).

Course

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. understand the major historical trends of the American West
2. Be able to use the academic skills:
 - a. of critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
 - b. of communication (listening, reading, writing, discussion)
 - c. of lifelong learning (curiosity, initiative, openness, research)
3. Be aware of cultural diversity:
 - a. students will gain exposure to diverse ethical, political, economic, historical, and social perspectives
 - b. students will learn about various social, political, and religious outlooks of the peoples of the American West
4. Be able to write a well-thought-out essays after being given ample background materials and facts from readings and class discussions.
5. Think critically about the past, present, and future of the United States.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend class, read the assigned readings, write 2 essays and 1 reflective paper and complete a journal (of the trip to the Southwest—those not going on the trip will be required to write a 8-10 page term paper). Class participation is strongly encouraged. Attendance is essential.

Exams: No exams for this course.

Point Total

For the Class: 75 pts. x 2 papers	= 150 pts.
Journal or Term Paper	= 100 pts.
Reflective Paper	= 50 pts.
Attendance (3 or fewer absences)	= 20 pts.
GRAND TOTAL POINTS	320 PTS.

Grading: 90% to 100% = 288-320 pts. = A
80% to 89% = 256-287 pts. = B
70% to 79% = 224-255 pts. = C
58% to 69% = 187-223 pts. = D
Below 58% = 186/less pts. = F

Attendance
Policy:

You are required to attend all classes. You will receive 20 points at the end of the semester if you miss two or fewer classes. If you miss 3 or more classes, you will lose all 20 points which will still be calculated in the final grade.

Grievance
Procedure:

Consult the *NWACC Student Handbook* regarding proper steps concerning grievances against other students or professors. Regardless, the first step should be to bring the complaint to the attention of the professor. If this step does not satisfactorily resolve the problem, the student should contact, Judy Tobler (Burns Hall 2010), Departmental Chair for the Social Sciences Department.

Bad Weather
Policy:

For official NWACC closings call NWACC at 619-4377

Rules of

the Buildings: Eating and drinking are not allowed in the building. Smoking must be done at designated sites.

Course Outline:

Weeks One & Two, May 30-June 8:

- A. Introduction to the American West
- B. The Region of the West
- C. The Sub-regions of the West
 - i. Southwest
 - ii. Great Plains
 - iii. Rocky Mountains
 - iv. Pacific Northwest
 - v. Far West (West Coast)
- D. The Peoples of the Southwest (Nabokov Readings, *Native American Testimony*)
 - i. Geography
 - ii. Anazasis
 - iii. Pueblos
 - iv. Apaches, Navajos, and other tribes
- E. **Thursday, June 1: Discussion of the First Readings, Nabokov, *Native American Testimony***

- F. The Hispanic Southwest
 - i. New Spain
 - ii. New Mexico
 - iii. The Greater Southwest
 - iv. The Modern Southwest

- G. **Tuesday, June 6: Discussion of Second Readings, Weber, “Scarce More Than Apes’: The Historical Roots of Anglo-American Stereotypes of Mexicans in the Border Region” & De León, *Mexican Americans in Texas***

- H. The Great Plains, Geography, Ecology, & Settlement

- I. **Thursday, June 8: Discussion of Third Readings: “Great Plains Grasslands Exploited,” from Carolyn Merchant, *Major Problems in American Environmental History* (pp. 286-323)—Paper 1 Due (details of papers to be discussed in class)**

Week 3: **Trip to the Southwest** , June 9-18

(www.nwacc.edu/academics/Honors/documents/HonorsTravelHonorsItinerarywithpicturesforTravelComponenttotheSouthwestfor.doc)

Week 4, (No class on Monday, June 19), June 20-23:

- J. The Rocky Mountain West
 - i. Geography
 - ii. Native Peoples
 - iii. The “Frontiers”
 - 1. Mining
 - 2. Ranching
 - 3. Urban

- K. **Thursday, June 23, Discussion: Reading on Rocky Mountain West (To Be Announced)**

- L. Introduction to the Pacific Northwest
 - i. Geography
 - ii. Native Peoples
 - iii. Lewis & Clark Expedition (Corps of Discovery)
 - iv. Settlers
 - v. Modernization

Week 5: June 26-30:

- M. **Monday, June 26: Discussion: Zhu, “Chinese Inclusion in Western History,” *Journal of the West* (2006)**
 - b. The Far West (West Coast)
 - i. Geography
 - ii. Native Peoples

- iii. The Missions
- iv. The Gold Rush & the '49ers
- v. Modern California

O. Thursday, June 29: Paper 2 Due

P. Last Day, Friday, June 30: Conclusion to the History of the American West