

Spring 2-1-2019

# HSTR 369.01: Twentieth Century American West

Leif M. Fredrickson

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# Twentieth-Century American West

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**Course:** HSTR 369-01 (35088 Spring 2019)

**Classroom:** Liberal Arts 336

**Time:** 2pm – 2:50pm (M, W, F)

*This syllabus and additional course information is available on the class [Moodle site](#), which students are required to use.*

**Instructor:** Leif Fredrickson

**Contact:** leif.fredrickson@umontana.edu

**Office hours:** LA 261, Wed 2:50-4:00

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## Description

Contradictions, controversies and conflicts engulfed the American West in the twentieth century. The West was known for its individualism, but it was also subject to massive federal intervention and corporate domination. A supposed respite from the industrial, urban eastern United States, the West was itself heavily urbanized and industrialized in the twentieth century. Some of the most violent clashes in history – over labor, race, and ethnicity – raged in the West’s forests, rangelands and cities. It was, to many, an Edenic landscape, but, it was also at the center of American disputes over profound environmental change. This class will explore the contradictions, controversies and conflicts of the American West and provide students with overarching concepts and questions to think about this fascinating period and place in U.S. history.

## Objectives

Learn about the major historical development and questions in the twentieth-century American West. Get a sense of the different experiences of people in the West in this period. Pursue historical research that is significant, relevant to today, and of interest to students. Develop historical research, analysis, and writing skills. Develop discussion and presentation skills.

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## Overview

### Organization

Class will combine short, informal lectures, discussion, and in-class research/writing.

20% - Midterm Test

30% - Research Paper (~10 pages)

### Readings/Media

Norma Smith, *Jeanette Rankin: America’s Conscience*

D’Arcy McNickle, *Wind from an Enemy Sky*

John Okada, *No-No Boy*

Roberto Gonzalez, *Lives in Limbo:*

*Undocumented and Coming of Age in America*

Other articles and media posted on Moodle

### Important Dates (Subject to Change)

January 11 – First day of class

January 21 – No class, MLK day

January 25 – Smith book quiz

February 6 – McNickle book quiz

February 15 – Okada book quiz

February 18 – No class, President’s Day

March 13 – Gonzalez book quiz

March 18 – Midterm Test

March 22 – Paper topic due

March 25 to 29 – Spring Break

April 1 – Paper sources due

April 10 – Paper outline and thesis due

April 19 – Paper rough draft due

### Grades/Assignments

30% - Discussion

20% - Book quizzes (four total)

April 19, 22, 24, 26 – Presentations  
April 26 – Last day of class

May 1 – Final paper due

## **Class Policies**

### **Inclusive Environment**

This class is welcoming and respectful of student diversity in gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race and religion. If you have any religious events that conflict with the class, please let me know. More generally, if you have any concerns or suggestions for making the class more inclusive or welcoming, for you or other students, please tell me.

### **Class Conduct**

Respect each other. *Do not* interrupt; do not be rude, flippant or disruptive. *Do* listen to others and be serious and careful in talking to others and discussing sensitive issues. Come to class on time. If you're late, come in quietly. Use laptops only for notes or class activities. Put away and turn off cell phones (if there is a special reason to check your phone, let me know). Any violations of this conduct will affect discussion grade and potentially enrollment in the class.

### **Attendance**

This is a discussion class, so attendance is required. Unexcused absences will affect your grade.

### **Late Assignments**

You will be allowed to make up missed assignments and you will get credit for assignments turned in late. The specific make up or effect on grade will depend on the circumstances. Whatever the reasons, it is critical that you communicate with me as soon as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism is the use of another person's phrasing or ideas without crediting that person (whether it is a verbatim quote or not). If in doubt, give credit to the source and/or ask me.

Plagiarism/cheating can result in total loss of credit for assignments/tests.

### **Changes to syllabus and course**

Aspects of this course and syllabus are subject change with advanced notice.

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## **Resources and Help**

### **Disability**

UM assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact them in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Student Support for Writing, Public Speaking, Study, Test Taking, Technology and More**  
[Office for Student Success](#), 406-243-2800

### **Mental Health Counseling**

Curry Health Center Counseling: 406-243-4711; Crisis/Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

*Please contact me if you have any concerns at any time, whether they are related to the class or not. I am here to help you feel welcome and help you succeed!*