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Spring 2-1-2017

HSTR 369.01: Twentieth Century American West

Jonathan Hall

The University Of Montana

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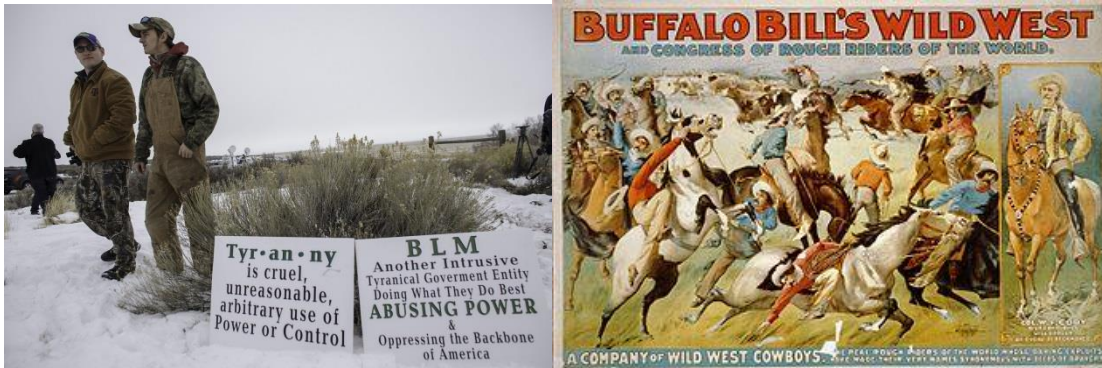
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HSTR 369: TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN WEST



Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Hall

Office—LA 264

Office Hours: W 1:30-3:30; or by appointment.

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Mailbox—located in 256 Liberal Arts

Course Description and Goals:

This course is designed, in part, as an intensive introduction to the history of the 20th century American West, from turn-of-the-century fears about the closing of the frontier through the present. By necessity, this will not be an exhaustive survey of the history of the American West. Instead, we will use illustrative examples to highlight key moments in the history of the region, including the rise of federal bureaucracy and western responses, the Progressive era, the Dust Bowl, the New Deal, federal Indian policy, World War II, urbanization in the West, social movements of the 1960s, and the rise of modern conservatism. Some of the key thematic questions we will examine include:

- To what extent is the American West unique?
- How does reality in the West match up with the mythology presented through popular culture?
- How has the American West evolved economically from a colonial economy to become the fastest growing region in the United States?
- How has the rise of federal power impacted local autonomy?
- What role has the environment played in the history of the American West?
- How have diverse populations in the West influenced the development and history of the region?

Assigned Text, available from The Bookstore at UM:

Peter Boag. *Re-Dressing America's Frontier Past*. University of California Press, 2011.

Philip J. Deloria. *Indians in Unexpected Places*. University Press of Kansas, 2004.

Mark Spence. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Andrew Kirk. *Doom Towns: The People and Landscapes of Atomic Testing, A Graphic History*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Brian Allen Drake. *Loving Nature, Fearing the State: Environmentalism and Antigovernment Politics Before Reagan*. University of Washington Press, 2013.

Other readings for the course are available on Moodle (Denoted with *).

Assignments and Assessment:

- A. Attendance, informed participation—10 percent
- B. Quizzes—15 percent
- C. Paper #1—15 percent
- D. Paper #2—15 percent
- E. Midterm—15-percent
- F. Presentation—5 percent
- G. Final Exam—25 percent

Grades will be on a plus/minus system with the following breakdown:

A (100-93), A- (92.9-90), B+ (89.9-87), B (86.9-83), B- (82.9-80), C+ (79.9-77), C (76.9-73), C- (72.9-70), D+ (69.9-67), D (66.9-63), D- (62.9-60), and F (59.9-0).

Accessibility and Accommodations: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction by supporting collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. For further information, contact DSS:

Lommason Center, 154

Phone: 406-243-2243

Email: dss@umontana.edu

A Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined in the [UM Student Conduct Code](#) as representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own, a situation that **will not be tolerated** in this course.

Throughout this class, you will be given ample instruction how to conduct historical research, how to paraphrase and quote illustrative material, and how to provide proper citations for all material not your own. Therefore, there is a zero tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism, and any documented cases of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the class.

Course Schedule: The following is tentative—please check Moodle for up-to-date assignments.

Week I:

T (1-24) Introductions

R (1-26) Course Themes

Readings for Discussion:

“Frontierland as Tomorrowland”

Week II:

T (1-31) Defining the American West

Readings for Discussion:

Frederick Jackson Turner (excerpts)

R (2-2) Mythology of the West

Readings for Discussion:

Boag, Introduction, Part I

Week III:

T (2-7) Mythology of the West continued

Readings for Discussion:

Boag, Part II, Conclusion

R (2-9) Mythology of the West continued

Film Screening: *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*

Readings for Discussion:

Week IV:

T (2-14) The Rise of Federal Bureaucracies

****Paper #1 due****

R (2-16) Extractive Industries and Colonial Economies

Readings for Discussion:

Deloria, p. 3-108

Week V:

T (2-21) Native Americans and Assimilation

Readings for Discussion:

Finish Deloria

R (2-23) Radicalism in the West

Readings for Discussion:

“Frank Crampton on the Ludlow Massacre”

“Elizabeth Burley Flynn Calls Women to Labor Action”

Mary Murphy, “Gender and Prohibition in Butte, Montana”

Week VI:

T (2-28) Progressivism in the West

Readings for Discussion:

Spence

R (3-1) Progressivism continued

Readings for Discussion:

Spence, continued

Week VII:

T (3-7) The New Deal in the West

Readings for Discussion:

TBD

R (3-9) Dust Bowl

Readings for Discussion:

TBD

Week VIII:

T (3-14) Screening and Discussion: The Plow that Broke the Plains

*****Paper #2 due*****

R (3-16) Midterm Review

*****SPRING BREAK No Class*****

T (3-21)

R (3-23)

Week IX:

T (3-28) Midterm Exam

R (3-30) World War II West

Readings for Discussion:

“From the Beat Generation to the Sanctuary Movement: Cold War Resistance Cultures in the American West,”

Week X:

T (4-5) The Atomic West

Readings for Discussion:

Kirk, Intro, Graphic History

R (4-7) Urban West

Readings for Discussion:

Selected primary documents from Kirk

Week XI:

T (4-12) Consumerism and Economic Booms

Readings for Discussion:

R (4-14) Water in the Arid West

Readings for Discussion:

“The Bureau of Reclamation and the West, 1945-2000,” *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*.

Week XII:

T (4-19) Native Americans, African-Americans, and Hispanics

Readings for Discussion:

“Alcatraz Proclamation”

Marianne Combs, “Remembering Wounded Knee”

R (4-21) The Rise of Modern Conservatism

Readings for Discussion:

Drake, Intro., Ch. 1, 2

Week XIII:

T (4-26) Sagebrush Rebellion

Readings for Discussion:

Finish Drake

R (4-28) Environmentalism

Readings for Discussion:

Dave Foreman, “Strategic Monkeywrenching”

Week XIV:

T (5-3) Immigration

Readings for Discussion:

TBD

R (5-5) The West in the 21st Century

Readings for Discussion:

TBD

Week XV:

Wednesday, 5-10 8-10 AM Final Exam