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HIST 365.01: The 19th Century American West

Dan M. Flores

The University Of Montana

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Professor Dan Flores
THE 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN WEST
The University of Montana
Autumn Semester 2000

History 365, THE 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN WEST, is an advanced level history course on American Western history -- its themes, its specifics of chronology and cause/effect, and most importantly, the meaning of Western history for the region, the United States, and the world. Although the long-term foundations of the history of the American West will get some coverage, this course will focus on the 19th century -- or more specifically, the years from about 1803 through 1910. For this time span we'll take up most of the classic subjects associated with the West, including the Native American world, exploration, the fur trade, mining, stockraising, agriculture, etc. We'll also endeavor to interpret the Trans-Mississippi country from the more contemporary perspectives of environmental history, ethnicity and cultural diversity, gender, art and literature, along with the enduring mythic legacy that springs from the "Old West" and its "frontier."

The course will consist of regular lectures, free discussion, and a diverse range of handouts and media presentations.

You will read five books for the course. Clyde Milner, Anne Butler, and David Lewis's MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST (second edition) will serve as general text. Stephen Ambrose's bestseller on Lewis and Clark, UNDAUNTED COURAGE, will come due for the midterm, and John Taliaferro's new biography of Montana and Western artist Charles Russell will be due on the final. The fourth and fifth books will be your choice, selected either from my course bibliography or from the "Further Reading" lists in the Milner text, and will be the subjects of formal book review/critiques.

There will be two major exams, including the final. The formats of these will be all essay, and each will be worth 150 points. The two book reviews will be worth 75 points each. Final grades will be figured on point totals out of 450 points possible: 405 points (90%) will earn an A, 270 (60%) a D. Attendance and class contributions are important and can make a difference in close calls.

My office is #260 in the Liberal Arts Building, and my official hours this fall will be 2-4 TT.

Students with special learning needs and students taking the course for graduate credit should see me.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	CLASS TOPICS	READING ASSIGNMENTS
Sept. 5	Course introduction	
7	No class (I'm doing a talk out-of-town)	
12	The Western Environment	Text, 1-33
14	The Native American	Text, 35-82
19	West in 1800	
21	Spain's and France's colonies	Text, 85-130
26	Britain's and Russia's colonies	
28	Jefferson's Expeditions	
Oct. 3	" " " "	Text, 131-162
	Excerpt from Ken Burns's film on Lewis and Clark	
5	The Fur & Mustang Trade	Text, 165-209
10	" " "	
12	MIDTERM	Lectures; handouts; AMBROSE Milner text 1-211
17	Legacy of Conquest:	
19	The Great Imperial Struggle, 1810-1848	Text, 211-259
24	Naturalists and	
26	Scientists	FIRST BOOK REVIEW DUE
31	Migration and Mormons	Text, 261-310
Nov. 2	The World Rushed In:	
9	Western Mining & Stockraising Excerpt from Ken Burns's <u>The West</u>	Text, 311-358
14	Transportation	
16	Gender, cultural diversity, and Western violence	Text, 359-397
21	Land, Water, Science: Settlement, 1862-90	Text, 399-438 SECOND BOOK REVIEW DUE
28	Western Indians by 1900:	
30	Conquest and Assimilation	
Dec. 5	Writers & Artists Excerpt from <u>The West of the Imagination</u>	Text, 440-485

- 7 Stock, Timber, and
Conservation's Planned Society
- 12 The Urban West Text, 654-681
- 15 Review; Excerpt from the film Pinchot and Muir
- May 13 FINAL EXAM (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) Lectures; handouts
TALIAFERRO; Text,
399-485, 654-81