

## HIST 372 History of the American West Spring Semester 2021

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Zoom Office Hour: Thursday 1:30-2:45

Gunslingers, rowdy saloons, cowboys and Indians all come to mind when we think of the American West. Is this the historic American West or is it the American West we imagine with the help of movies, television, and fiction? Join me as we explore the wild, wild west of the American past and the American imagination.

During the semester, we will explore the “place” and the “process” of the history of the U.S. West, a shifting region of Native North America that was the object first of Spanish, French, English, and then American expansionism, and finally as a distinct region with a unique relationship to the U.S. federal government, distinctive patterns of race relations, and a unique place in American cultural memory. While this course is a general survey of the west as a region, it will examine the west as both a place and as an idea in American culture and in the popular imagination.

### Course Format

This course is offered as an asynchronous online course. There are no scheduled in person meetings or online synchronous meetings. Office hours are available by request and will be offered via Zoom appointments. You may work through this course as quickly as you choose and as your own schedule demands. However, deadlines are hard and fast.

### Email

The most efficient way to contact me is via email [dmarsh@purdue.edu](mailto:dmarsh@purdue.edu). I expect emails to be professionally formatted. Include your course number or name in the subject heading and begin your email with a greeting and sign it with your name. I answer student email during working hours 8-5, M-F. There are exceptions.

### Required Text\*

The American West: A New Interpretive History, **Second Edition** (Lamar Series in Western Title: History)

Author: Robert V. Hine, John Mack Faragher, Jon T. Coleman

Publisher: Yale University Press

ISBN: 978-0300185171

\*The text and etext are available through Amazon or many other booksellers. It is your responsibility to confirm that you have the **required edition**. Older editions of this book are unacceptable due to major revisions in the content.

### Required Documentaries

Students are required to view all assigned videos. Learning Guides and Exams will draw on material from the documentaries. The documentaries illuminate and expand on ideas presented in the assigned book. The evaluation of your assignments and exams will depend in part on how you incorporate the information from both sources into your written analysis.

Ken Burns "The West" (eight episodes)  
Ken Burns "The National Parks" (six episodes)  
"Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian"

The documentaries can be accessed through Purdue Libraries film database "Kanopy."  
<https://purdue-kanopystreaming-com.ezproxy.lib.purdue.edu/video/ken-burns-west>  
<https://purdue.kanopystreaming.com/video/ken-burns-national-parks-america-s-best-idea>  
<https://purdue.kanopystreaming.com/video/reel-injun-native-american-portrayal-hollywo>

### Course Requirements and Assessment

- 6 Learning Guides 30 points each
- Midterm and Final Essays 100 points each

### Assignments: Learning Guides

Students will respond to a series of terms and review questions based on the assigned readings and documentary. The Learning Guides are intended to direct you to the important concepts, events, people and places discussed in the respective readings and documentaries. Your responses to the Learning Guides are an **essential** component of how you will be assessed in this course. Your written responses in the Learning Guides and Exam Essays encompass the entirety of how you will be evaluated for this course. It is imperative that you take the time to read and watch the assigned content. It is equally important that you follow the assignment instructions. Your answers must be complete, detailed, and well written responses. It is in your best interest to proofread and edit your work BEFORE submitting it online. **Your attention to these guidelines will markedly improve your ability to succeed in this course.**

There are two parts to these assignments: terms and brief essay prompts. Your task is to demonstrate your comprehension of the assigned content. **Names, places, events, and dates are facts and details that demonstrate your attention to the material.** Discussions of ideas, concepts, and your own interpretation and insights supported by examples and details from the assigned contents are equally important. In order to successfully complete your assignments, you must allow adequate time to read, view, think, write, and proofread your work. This is an upper division history class and you will be evaluated on your critical thinking skills and your ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

**If you submit an incomplete assignment (for example completing only 8 terms or only 3 of the essay prompts) the assignment will receive a score of 0. If you submit the assignment late it will be docked 3 points for each day late. All assignments whether turned in on time or late and earning 0 points must be submitted in order to pass the class. Your grade will be based on the total points earned.**

### Instructions for the Learning Guides

#### Terms

Write 2-3 detailed sentences identifying the ten terms taken from the assigned readings and films. Write complete sentences for each term.

### Essay Prompts

Answer all five essay prompts based on the assigned chapter readings and films. Each response to a single question should be a **minimum of 300 words**. To earn full credit for your Learning Guide assignment each response must include details and examples from the assigned content: **chapters and films** and include citations. Each prompt must be answered completely.

### Citing Sources

Use only the sources (text and film) assigned to write your responses to the prompts and identify the sources with an in-text parenthetical citation. For example:

Citing the Hine text:

Daniel Boone moved to Missouri in order to escape personal debts and the overdevelopment of his original wilderness home (Hine, 135). I have the etext and paper versions. Both have corresponding page numbers.

Citing a documentary:

Malinche was instrumental in providing Hernan Cortez with an advantage in his efforts to defeat the Aztec leaders (Burns, The West, Episode 1).

**Write your answer in single-spaced, 12 pt. regular font. Submit your answers in a Word document uploaded through Brightspace. They must be submitted as a Word document uploaded to Brightspace.**

The detailed instructions for the Learning Guides are also located at the beginning of each assignment. Carefully follow the instructions regarding minimum word limits, citing sources, and content.

**ALL** Learning Guides must be completed to pass this class. **No exceptions.** The assignments and exams are due by 11:59 on the date listed.

Students can work as far ahead in the Modules as they choose however grading will conform to the course schedule. I strongly advise you to work on these assignments in a timely manner. Waiting until 11:59 pm on the due date to submit your assignment is often problematic: computer problems, submission issues, etc. If you elect to wait until the final moments to submit your assignment, you do so **AT YOUR OWN RISK**.

### **Midterm and Final Essays**

Students will write an essay for each exam based on the assigned reading material and primary sources provided by the instructor. Exam guidelines will be provided separately **one week before** the exam due date. **Exams submitted late (anytime past 11:59 pm on due date) will earn a "0."** **No exceptions.**

### **Important Dates**

- **Midterm Due 11:59pm Friday 3/12/21**
- **Final Due 11:59pm Monday 5/3/21**
- **Learning Guide 1 Due 11:59pm Friday 1/29/21**

- Learning Guide 2 Due 11:59pm Friday 2/12/21
- Learning Guide 3 Due 11:59pm Friday 2/26/21
- Learning Guide 4 Due 11:59pm Friday 3/26/21
- Learning Guide 5 Due 11:59pm Friday 4/9/21
- Learning Guide 6 Due 11:59pm Friday 4/23/21

## Course Schedule

### Module 1

#### Read

Introduction: Dreams and Homelands  
Chapter One: A New World Begins  
Chapter Two: Contest of Cultures

#### Watch

Burns, The West, Episode 1 "The People"

#### Complete

Learning Guide 1 Due 11:59pm Friday 1/29/21

### Module 2

#### Read

Chapter Three: The Struggle of Empires  
Chapter Four: The Land and Its Markers

#### Watch

Burns, The West, Episode 2 "Empire Upon the Trails"

#### Complete

Learning Guide 2 Due 11:59pm Friday 2/12/21

### Module 3

#### Read

Chapter Five: Finding Purchase  
Chapter Six: War and Destiny

#### Watch

Burns, The West, Episode 3 "Speck of the Future"  
Burns, The West, Episode 4 "Death Runs Riot"

#### Complete

Learning Guide 3 Due 11:59pm Friday 2/26/21

**MIDTERM EXAM DUE 11:59PM FRIDAY 3/12/21**

**Module 4**

**Read**

**Chapter Seven: Machine**

**Chapter Eight: A Search for Community**

**Watch**

**Burns, The West, Episode 5 "The Grandest Enterprise Under God"**

**Burns, The West, Episode 6 "Fight No More Forever"**

**Burns, The West, Episode 7, "The Geography of Hope"**

**Burns, The West, Episode 8, "One Sky Above Us"**

**Complete**

**Learning Guide 4 Due 11:59pm Friday 3/26/21**

**Module 5**

**Read**

**Chapter Nine: The Urban Frontier**

**Chapter Ten: New Frontiers**

**Watch**

**Burns, National Parks, Episode 1 "The Scripture of Nature"**

**Burns, National Parks, Episode 2 "The Last Refuge"**

**Complete**

**Learning Guide 5 Due 11:59pm Friday 4/9/21**

**Module 6**

**Chapter Eleven: As the West Goes**

**Chapter Twelve: "It Ain't Where You're From, It's Where You're At"**

**Watch**

**"Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian"**

**Complete**

**Learning Guide 6 Due 11:59pm Friday 4/23/21**

**FINAL EXAM DUE 11:59pm 5/3/21**