

History 539  
Fall 2002  
Prof. John Putman  
Office: AH 4201 #594-4888  
Office Hours: MF 10:00-10:45am, W 1-2pm,  
T 5:30-6:30pm or by appointment  
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*Topics in the History of the American West:  
The American West*

History 539 is a topics course in the history of the American West. This semester the course will examine the West as place by exploring the history of the trans-Mississippi West from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. In this course we will address numerous historical issues associated with this region, including cultural contact and conflict, economic development, visions and meanings of the West, human interaction with nature and the environment, relationship between western states and the federal government, tourism, the growth of the sunbelt cities, and the shifting nature of race, class, gender, and power in the region.

Readings:

- Richard Etulain, Does the Frontier Make America Exceptional?
- Douglas Monroy, Thrown Among Strangers
- Elliott West, The Contested Plains
- Sarah Deutsch, No Separate Refuge
- Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargain
- John Findlay, Magic Lands
- History 539 Reader (available at KB Books)

Two optional books have been order in limited numbers for a book review paper.

- Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest
- Donald Worster, Rivers of Empire

Additional readings and documents will be placed in Course Reserves in Love Library.

Grading:

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|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midterm              | 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Review Paper    | 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Final                | 30% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Participation  | 15% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary source paper | 15% |

A brief note on grades: A student will earn an "A" for only excellent and outstanding work. A "B" represents very good work, which means more than just doing the job. A "C" is given to those who demonstrate adequate competence and satisfactory completion of assignments. "D" work is that which fails to demonstrate competence and/or fails to fully complete the assignment. I don't think I need to explain the meaning of an "F" to you. Finally, I always assume that each student puts his or her full effort into an assignment, so please don't try to make a case for a higher grade based on how much time and effort you put into an assignment. I can only grade performance not effort.

*Class Etiquette: Please arrive on time and do not leave before the end of class unless you inform me prior to class. Also, please be sure cell phones and beepers are off or on silent.*

## *Lecture Topics, Readings, and Class Schedule*

Please be aware that the major themes and ideas that comprise my exams are generally drawn from my lectures so attendance is critical if you wish to do well in this course. Readings, both from the text and the other assigned books, are not extra or optional assignments. The readings complement, but do not replace, my lectures and are there to help you better understand major themes and issues raised in class. One key to success in this course is to keep up with the reading assignments.

### Schedule

- 9/3 INTRODUCTION / WHAT IS THE WEST?
- 9/10 TURNER'S WEST  
Reading: Etulain, (all)
- 9/17 INDIANS AND EMPIRE  
Reading: Monroy, Ch. 1-3  
E-Reserves: "Thomas Jefferson's Secret Message to Congress"  
E-Reserves: "Jean De Brebeuf, Instructions for the Fathers of Our Society Who Shall Be Sent to the Hurons" and "Micmac Elder, Speech to French Settlers"  
Web Site: "President Jackson's Case for Removal Act"  
Web Site: "Memorial of the Cherokee Nation"
- 9/24 ANGLO/MEXICAN FRONTIER  
Reading: Monroy, ch. 4-end  
Reader: De Leon, "They Called Them Greasers, Ch. 1-2"  
Web Site: "Richard Dana: California and Its Inhabitants"  
Web Site: Texas Declaration of Independence"  
Web Site: John O' Sullivan, "Manifest Destiny"
- 10/1 CONQUEST OF THE WEST  
Reading: West, Ch. 1-7  
Reader: Charles Sumner, "A War to Strengthen the Slavery Interests"
- 10/8 LIFE IN THE NEW AMERICAN WEST  
Reading: West, Ch. 8-end  
Web Site: Sand Creek Massacre  
Web Site: Red Cloud's Speech  
Web Site: Dawes Act and President Arthur's Address  
Web Site: Harper's Weekly Magazine: "Farming in the Great West"
- 10/15 RAILROADS, ECONOMY, AND ENVIRONMENT  
Reading: Rothman, Ch. 2-4  
Web Site: Henry George, "What the Railroad Will Bring Us"  
Web Site: Harper's Weekly Magazine: "The Pacific Railroad"  
Web Site: John Muir, "Our Forests and National Parks"  
Film: The West: The Grandest Enterprise Under God"
- PRIMARY SOURCE PAPER DUE IN CLASS**
- 10/22 THE WEST COMES OF AGE  
Reading: Deutsch, Ch. 1-4  
Rothman, Ch. 5  
Web Site: Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show (read all pages)  
Web Site: Omaha Platform of 1892

- 10/29 CONFLICT AND CHANGE IN EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WEST  
 Reading: Deutsch, Ch. 5-6  
 Reader: Hundley, "The Boulder Canyon Project"  
 Reader: Putman, "A Test of Chiffon Politics"  
 Web Site: Robert Underwood Johnson Testimony on Hetch Hetchy  
 Web Site: "Japan in California, 1913"
- 11/5 A FEDERAL WEST IN DEPRESSION AND WAR  
 Reading: Deutsch, Ch. 7  
 Rothman, Ch. 6-7  
 Web Site: "That Damned Fence"  
 Web Site: "Life in Camp Harmony"  
 Web Site: "Justice Murphy Dissent in Korematsu Case"  
**MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS**
- 11/12 COLD WAR WEST  
 Reading: Findlay, Ch. 1-3  
 Rothman, Ch. 8  
 Reader: Montoya, "Landscapes of the Cold War West"  
 Reader: Yoggy, "Prime-Time Bonanza: The Western on Television"  
 Web Site: "Ralph Gundlach's Statement to the Tenure Committee, 1948"  
 Web Site: "Seattle Post-Intelligencer Editorials, 1948"  
 Web site: "Screen Guide for Americans"
- 11/19 RACE, DEMOCRACY, AND POLITICS  
 Reading: Rothman, Ch. 9-10  
 Reader: Gutierrez, "Sin Fronteras?: The Contemporary Debate"  
 Web Site: "Mario Savio Introduction to Berkeley: The New Student Revolt"  
 Web Site: "Alcatraz Proclamation"  
 Web Site: "Mexicanos Need to Control Their Own Destinies Speech"  
 Web Site: "McCone Report on Watts"
- 11/26 SUNBELT CITIES  
 Reading: Findlay, Ch. 4-6  
 Rothman, Ch. 11
- 12/3 REAGAN'S WEST  
 Reading: Reader: Glass, "Air Force, Western Shoshone, and Mormon Rhetoric of Place and the  
 MX Conflict"  
 E-Reserves, Dallek, "Liberalism Overthrown"  
**BOOK REVIEW DUE IN CLASS**
- 12/10 A GREEN WEST  
 Reading: Rothman, Ch. 12-13  
 Reader: Hays, "The New Environmental West"  
 Web Site: Stegner, "The Geography of Hope"
- 12/17 FINAL 7-9pm