2016

113-01 Law and Order in the 19th Century American West

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Office Hours: 10-11 a.m. W, 2:30-4 p.m. Th, and by appointment  

Course Description: The land west of the Mississippi River was a meeting ground for many different peoples and cultures in the 19th century: Native Americans, Hispanics, Anglo-Americans, Asians, and others. This course will examine how those communities organized and regulated themselves and dealt with internal or external pressures. We will also examine the development of different communities in the region, including those of the fur trade, farmers, ranchers, miners, and religious groups such as Mormons; all inhabiting shared spaces that each sought to control and dominate. Finally, we will investigate the role of government in bringing order to the region through its own efforts to regulate and resolve conflicts.

Course Format and Expectations: Since this class only meets once a week, missing even a single meeting means missing a large chunk of the course, so consistent attendance is crucial. Do your best to arrive on time and remain until class ends, to complete scheduled readings and assignments and to be respectful of the instructor and your fellow students. Typically, each class will include lecture sections and discussion of that week's readings. Attendance and participation in discussion is not optional; failure to participate will result in a lower discussion grade, and three or more absences from discussion sections will result in your receiving an 'F' in discussion. Attendance at lecture is also important, since the lectures will provide critical background and place the weekly readings in a historical context.

Grading: In-class discussion (10 percent)  
Midterm and final exam (15 percent each)  
Two short paper assignments (15 percent each)  
Movie analysis (10 percent)  
Independent book analysis (20 percent)

Academic Honesty: You are expected to produce original work for all assignments. Direct quotes, paraphrases, or ideas taken from another source must be acknowledged with a parenthetical citation: for example (Manning, The Chicago Strike of 1893, 30). If you commit an act of plagiarism (passing off someone else's words or work as your own without acknowledgement or attribution), you will fail the assignment, may fail the course, and your case will be forwarded to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for further discipline. For more on academic honesty, consult the Xavier University Student Handbook.

Course Readings: Books for the course may be purchased independently or from the Xavier University Bookstore. Additional readings indicated by an asterisk in the syllabus (*) may be accessed via the course's Canvas page.


Disclaimer: I reserve the right to alter any element of the course for any reason. Any changes will be announced in class and via e-mail. It is your responsibility to stay abreast of any changes and plan accordingly.

Schedule  
PART I: Encounters  
WEEK ONE  
Aug. 22 – Introduction to course
WEEK TWO
Aug. 29 – Deep Histories/Family Businesses
  Discussion: Natives and Newcomers
  Reading: Ronda, *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians* (excerpts) *
  Ronda, “A Moment in Time: The West – September 1806” *

WEEK THREE
Sept. 5 – LABOR DAY, NO CLASS

WEEK FOUR
Sept. 12 – Imperial Competition/The “Great American Desert”
  Discussion: The “Problem” of the West
  Reading: Irving, *Astoria* (excerpt) *
  Scharff, “Hearth of Darkness: Susan Magoffin on Suspect Terrain” *

WEEK FIVE
Sept. 19 – Pioneers/Texas
  Discussion: Power
  Readings: Hamaleinen, “The Politics of Grass” *
  Montejano, *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas* (excerpt) *
  SHORT PAPER DUE

WEEK SIX
Sept. 26 – Manifest Destiny/John Sutter: Paradise Lost
  Discussion: The Golden Land
  Reading: Chan, “A People of Exceptional Character” *
  Madley, “California’s Yuki Indians: Defining Genocide in Native American History” *

WEEK SEVEN
Oct. 3 – Utah: Paradise Gained/Distant Debates, Immediate Conflicts
  Discussion: The Many Wives of Zion
  Reading: Harline, *The Polygamous Wives Writing Club*

WEEK EIGHT
Oct. 10 – Conquest/Transforming the West
  Discussion: Tragedy or Justice (In Four Parts)
  Reading: Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn*

WEEK NINE
Oct. 17 - MIDTERM EXAM

PART II: Consequences
WEEK TEN
Oct. 24 – Remaking the West: Cattlemen, Boomers, and Homesteaders
  Discussion: Cowtowns, Railroads, and Order
  Reading: Dykstra, “The Cattle Towns Adjust to Violence (With a Postscript)” *
  White, “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Northwest Railroad” *

WEEK ELEVEN
Oct. 31 – Domesticating the West/Governing
  Discussion: Hope and Fear
  Reading: Rolvaag, *Giants in the Earth* (excerpts) *

WEEK TWELVE
Nov. 7 – Law and Order (Rangers and Marshals and Outlaws, Oh My!)/Law and Land
  Discussion: Control
  Reading: Johnson, *Violence in the West*
WEEK THIRTEEN
Nov. 14 – The Urban West/Liberty and Restraint  
Discussion: The Industrial West  
Reading: Malone, The Battle for Butte

WEEK FOURTEEN
Nov. 21 – Transforming People/Excluding People  
Discussion: Discontent in the 1890s,  
Reading: Ostler, The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism (excerpts) *  
Ostler, Prairie Populism (excerpts) *

SHORT PAPER DUE

WEEK FIFTEEN
Nov. 28 – MOVIE NIGHT  
Viewing (before class!): Stagecoach  
MOVIE ANALYSIS DUE

WEEK SIXTEEN
Dec. 5 – Racializing the West/Coda  
Discussion: Legacies  
Reading: Stegner, The American West as Living Space

FINAL EXAM – Monday, Dec. 12, 4:15 p.m
INDEPENDENT BOOK ANALYSIS DUE AT FINAL!