THE AMERICAN WEST

Instructor: Dr. Kay Reeve  
Office: 4102 SS Classroom Bldg.  
Phone: 770-423-6143  
Office Hrs: T – Th 10:30 – 11:45am  
M – 1:00-2:00pm  
And By Appointment

Contact Information:  
Emails: For Course related contact, please use course email for contact.  
Campus EMAIL: kreeve@kennesaw.edu

Class Meeting: Monday (only) 5:00pm-7:45pm  
(The class will meet the full time, with one 10 minute break)

Important Dates:  
Dates for Tests (Subject to Change): Sept. 24 & Nov. 5  
Thanksgiving Break: Class Meets Nov. 19; break begins Nov. 21  
Last Class Day: December 3  
Paper/Project Due Date: NOV. 26 (There will be Checkpoint dates as well)  
Final Exam Date: Monday, December 10 - 6:00 - 8:00pm

Text: Walter Nugent, Into the West: A Story of Its Peoples (Selected pp.)

Additional Readings: Links to or copies of primary documents, scholarly  
historical essays, and short stories will posted on the GAVIEW  
course site. MUCH of the course reading load is provided on this  
on-line access form. Expect to print out a fairly large amount of  
material. (It still costs less than 4 books.)

FOR FALL 2012 - IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- The readings for some topics are being updated for copyright, clarity of image and  
  other reasons.
- Not all readings are currently posted, and some currently posted in the topic folder  
  might change following the update, therefore do not print out the readings beyond  
  those in the Environment folder until given notice that updates to the reading for a  
  specific topic has been completed.
- If several changes to the reading schedule or assignments are made, a revised  
  Topics and Reading List will be posted on the course home page.

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course surveys the history and culture of  
the American West, with most emphasis on the development of the Trans-Mississippi  
West from the early 19th century to 1890. Attention is given to how theses developments  
both continue and change in the 20th century. The crucial influences of the environment,  
the interaction of Native Americans, Hispanics, Euro-Americans and other cultural  
groups, and the unique relationship of the region with the Federal government are  
explored. Special emphasis is placed on the unique influence of the physical
environment, and other elements that contribute to the West as a region or identifiable “place.” In addition to a traditional historical approach, the course will explore the myths and images that have shaped and still shape the American peoples' perceptions of the West. Primary documents, scholarly articles, art and literature will be utilized in the class. The stories are selected from works by 20th century authors who give voice to more recent interpretations of the sometimes over-glorified western experience. The stories reflect enduring elements and traits of the American West and its peoples. (American Studies students will explore additional culture based materials connected to the region during the course.) Students will receive the opportunity to historically contextualize the literature they read, and to learn how literature can reflect and interpret history. To be successful a student must be able to learn from a variety of sources, to learn in class ad on their own, and to have the ability to recognize historical interpretations and “dissect” historical arguments. The reading load may seem heavy at times, but students are expected to be prepared for class.

OBJECTIVES & METHODS OF ASSESSMENT: As a result of their study of the West through the course content (as outlined above) and participation in class activities, students should:

1. Demonstrate a mastery of basic facts concerning the history of the American West. (Assessed on tests, quizzes and in-class assignments)

2. Demonstrate an understanding of both the factual material and differing ways of interpreting it. (Assessed during class discussions, on quizzes & activities, exams, paper and/or project.)

3. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze material presented as "fact." (All assignments.)

4. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and be able to analytically discuss interpretations of historical events and/or topics. (Focus of the term paper/project.)

5. Demonstrate the ability to convey knowledge and demonstrate skills in supporting interpretations and arguments in written from at a level appropriate for advanced level college standing. (Assessed in all written work & participation in class discussions.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION (10%): All students are expected to do the assigned reading before the class meeting when it is to be discussed, attend classes, and participate in discussion and class activities. The participation grade in the class is based on this and attendance. AS WELL, some in-class & out-of class writing assignments, group response quiz or other group work will be part of your participation grade total. For some topics, students may be assigned to act as “experts” on the assigned readings. Credit will be assigned in the participation grade for such leadership.
TESTS & EXAMINATIONS (40%): There will be two tests during the semester (designed to take ½ of the class period) and a COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM. The Exams may include multiple choice, but will also include short response questions, identifications and traditional full length essays. All will include questions drawn from lecture, in class activities, class discussion, and the assigned readings.

QUIZZES (10%): There will also be several (4 to 5) quizzes on the readings assigned for the various topics for the weekly meetings. They will include questions on readings already covered, and/or those to be covered that week. Some quizzes may be completed outside of class time. Most quizzes will be scheduled and announced, but the instructor reserves the right to give “pop” quizzes if necessary to assure student preparation for class discussions. You must attend class to take in class quizzes. Make-ups are allowed for documented medical reasons only. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

TERM PAPER and/or PROJECT (20%): The specific descriptions of the options for papers or projects (all have a substantial written component = 7 to 9 pages) will be posted separately under Paper/Project Instructions on the course website. The paper options for American Studies students (or those who ask for and receive permission to do so) will have different instructions from those for History or History Education Majors. The AMST paper sources will include literature and art. The readings, the literature, and the material presented and discussed in class will help set the paper in a broader context.

Important Note: All papers must be written using correct historical citation and writing style, as well as correct grammar. Grades will reflect the expectation that the paper demonstrate the advanced undergraduate level of the course with regard to the ability to locate appropriate scholarly resources, content knowledge, written expression, and analytical skill.

A Word about Written Expression of Knowledge and proper formal writing: If you do not write at a level appropriate for a college junior, do not expect to make about a C (or D) on the paper.

1. The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on thesis development, organization, research documentation, grammar, and much more. They help you improve your paper AND teach you strategies to become a better writer on your own. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

2. The KSU Writing Center uses the Perdue University online writing guide wherein you will find user-friendly examples and clear information about composition rules. An excellent source of information! You can access it through the KSU Writing Center’s website or at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar.

3. Other useful guides will be posted on the course site, and opportunities for instructor and peer review of written work will be provided.

ATTENDANCE: Students who do not attend class, or who do not attend for the full scheduled time will lose points on their final average in proportion to the severity of the
problem. Under no circumstances (except documented medical reasons) should a student miss more than two classes in a class. (Tardiness and leaving early count as 1/2 absence.) For each absence beyond one full class and one half class period, there will be a deduction of a letter grade. Again, documented medical or bereavement related absences are excused. Other “emergencies” are not necessarily acceptable reasons for absence.

**FINAL GRADE SCALE:**

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<td>100-90</td>
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**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COURSE INFORMATION:** Elements within a course, especially one that meets only once a week for an extended time, are subject to adjustments and changes. Students are expected to check the GeorgiaVIEW course homepage regularly (at least every three days) for any updates, changes, announcements, etc. **In-class announcements and the course site act as the major sources for course information.** Announcements made in class are FORMAL notice of any course changes, due dates, or course expectations. Changes will be posted in writing on the site as far in advance as possible, but students are expected to be aware of announcements made in class. Announcements in class and/or posted on the course home page will keep students up to date on pacing. Pacing always varies based on class participation and unforeseen events.

**READING:** Students are expected to do the reading assigned for each class. **A Topics and Readings Schedule/Calendar is posted separately in the same folder as this syllabus.** The date that a topic is scheduled to be covered may change, but once the readings for that topic are posted in the folder for that topic, those will be the readings for that topic. Any changes will be minor (such as deciding to omit an assigned essay, or exchanging one reading for another) and all changes will be announced and an “update” posted to be appended to the readings schedule/calendar.

**CLASS POLICIES:**

- Please turn cell phones off when you enter the classroom. **No texting, surfing, etc.** during class. If you cannot commit to be fully engaged in the class each day, consider taking another class.

- Laptops are to be used for class related purposes ONLY. There will be times you will be asked to access websites, etc. and you may take class notes IF you prefer to type them. note taking. If you are using a laptop you may be asked to “share” those notes. Be sure you are using the technology for class purposes, not for entertainment. Students who distract the instructor or their classmates by using laptops to check Facebook, browse the web, etc., will be asked to leave class. They receive a grade reduction as noted in the below. As well, in the future they will NOT be allowed to use their laptop for any purpose.
Commitment to learning, preparation for class, thoughtful participation and engagement in the activities of the class, and respectful treatment of your peers is expected. You will be asked to leave the class if your behavior or attitude interferes with the ability of others to have a full opportunity to learn.

There will be ample opportunities to do well on assignments; there is no “extra credit” and the grading scale is set, unless lack of attendance or disruptive class behavior lowers your grade. Tardiness to class (and leaving early) = ½ absence.

Students with more than two absences will have their course grade reduced one letter grade. Additional absences beyond three will result in additional reductions.

Academic honesty is required of all KSU students, as in following the class policies. Students are expected to report breeches of the code and the policies by themselves of others. Please report student who can not adhere to both the code of academic honesty found on the KSU website at: http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=562#stud_code_cond

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to register with “KSU diAbled Student Support Services”: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dss/dss.html
the office responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities.

FINALLY: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SYMESTER.