THE HISTORY of THE AMERICAN WEST

Instructor: Dr. Kay Reeve  
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Office hours: Mon.: 2:00-4:00pm;  
T & Th: 2:30-3:30pm;  
M-F by apt. as needed

Course Contact Information:  
Emails: For course related contact, please use D2L course email. In cases of an extremely pressing nature, call the office.

Class Meeting:  
T & Th 11:00am-12:15pm  
SS 2030

Important Dates:  
Last Day to Withdraw w/out Academic Penalty:  Oct. 11  
Dates for Mid-Term (Subject to Change): Oct. 8  
Fall (Thanksgiving Break): Nov. 27-Dec. 1; Class WILL Meet Nov. 26  
Last Class Day: December 3  
Paper/Project Due Dates: TBA  
Final Exam Date: Thursday, Dec. 5 - 10:30am – 12:30pm

Course Description: HIST 3315 - The History of the American West
This course surveys the history of the American West with special emphasis on the development of the Trans-Mississippi West from the early 19th century to recent years. 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.

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

Additional Readings: URL links to or copies of primary documents, scholarly historical essays, and short stories will posted on the D2L course site. MOST of the course reading load is provided in on-line access form. While there will be times you may access the readings in class via your laptop laptop, please expect to print out a fairly large amount of material. (It still costs less than 4 books!) To be successful in this course you must be able to commit to reading a large amount of scholarly material and learning information from it independently. Class “discussion” is only possible when students are prepared.

FOR FALL 2013 - 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 (“migrated” from an earlier semester) might change following updates; 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 Readings List will be posted on the course home page. Readings are found in the Module of that topic name.

**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 18th century to 1890. Attention is given to how these developments both continue and change in the 20th century, particularly through the reading of literature written about the American West in recent times. 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. Students will receive the opportunity to historically contextualize the literature they read, and to learn how literature can reflect and interpret history. A 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 provide students the opportunity to question the myths and images that have shaped and still shape the American peoples' perceptions of the West. To be successful a student must be able to learn from a variety of sources, to learn in class and 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 quizzes or other group work assigned in class or to be brought to class 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 prepared participation and leadership as an “expert.”

EXAMINATIONS (40%): There will be a MID-TERM EXAM during the semester and a COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM. The Exams may include multiple choice, completion, short response questions, identifications, etc., but traditional full length essays will also be required. Exams will include questions drawn from lecture, in class activities, class discussion, and the assigned readings.

QUIZZES (20%): There will be several (5 to 8) quizzes on the assigned readings. 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.

PAPERS and/or BOOTH ART MUSEUM PROJECT (30%): The specific descriptions of the options for papers and the project that can be substituted for one of the three papers (=article reviews; an annotated bibliography) will be posted separately under Paper/Project Instructions on the course website. In total students should expect to complete a written component of 7 to 9 pages). An additional choice to complete a paper/project which utilizes the literature read in class and Western art in the Booth Museum of Western Art located in Cartersville will be available. 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 and style. 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 papers. Paper #1 will be returned carefully marked to provide a guide to any areas that require fuller attention. However, the paper will still receive the appropriate grade. The successive papers will merely be reduced in grade for continued mistakes and inaccuracies. Avoid low grades and strive to achieve what you should be
and are expected by future employers to be able to do as a college educated individual. Learn to communicate complex ideas in clear, correct written English. Need help?

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 three class periods. (Tardiness and leaving early counts as 1/2 absence.) 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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<td>Below 60</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 D2L 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 will be 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 and put them away when you enter the classroom. No texting, surfing, etc. during class. If you cannot commit to be fully engaged in the class each day, please 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. 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 three absences will have their course grade reduced one letter grade. Additional absences beyond will result in additional reductions.

- Academic Integrity: All students must to do their own work. Please read the entire Student Code of Conduct, particularly noting from Section II A of the KSU Student Code of Conduct:

  No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).
• Academic honesty is required of all KSU students, as is following the class policies. Students are expected to report breeches of the code and the policies by themselves or 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 disAbled Student Support Services”: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html the office responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities.

• If you are having any difficulties regarding this class, please make an appointment so that we can talk about them. The sooner we can resolve problems, the better for all concerned.

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