History 1S: The American West 1840-1940
Course Hours M 1:15-4:00

History 1S is an introduction to the history of the American West. Students will explore the history of the territory west of the Mississippi, south of the Canadian border, north of the Mexico, and east of the Pacific from the middle of the 19th century to the World War II era. History 1S will examine the western migrations and settlement of a series of non-native peoples at the same time as it addresses the reality of peoples made foreigners within their own borders by war and treaty. Our study begins with the forced migration of the Cherokee and ends by analyzing the growth of agricultural empires and the military industrial complex in mid-twentieth century California. Along the way, the course will investigate the icons of the "Old West" - the cowboy, the cattle rancher, and the sodbuster.

Student grades will be based on the quality of classroom discussions, written assignments, and examinations. It is imperative that students complete the assigned reading, attend class regularly, and participate in discussions. Repeated absences from class will adversely affect final grades in the course.

A final will be scheduled for this course. Students will also be responsible for weekly discussion questions, and three papers.

The following books are required reading and are available in the bookstore:

Benjamin, Jules, A Student’s Guide to History 8th edition
Calof/Rikoon, Rachel Calof’s Story
Conley, Robert, Mountain Windsong
Etulain, Richard ed., with Badges and Bullets
Foley, Neil, The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture
Knobloch, Frieda The Culture of Wilderness
Nugent/Ridge, The American West: The Reader
Perdue, Theda The Cherokee Removal
Spence, Mark David, Dispossessing the Wilderness
Utley, Robert M., The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull

Suggested Reading: Worster, Donald, Under Western Skies,
Johnson, Susan Lee, Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush

Other required readings will be distributed in class.
READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week I:
Jan. 21  Introduction: The Map & Historiography of the American West
Reading: The American West, 1-38,
The Cherokee Removal, 1-91

Week II:  The Prequel
Jan. 28  Trappers and Traders
Reading: The American West, 83-119

Week III:  The Removal
Feb. 4  “this land is my land…”
Reading: Mountain Windsong, The Cherokee removal, 92-178.

Week IV:  Manifest Destiny and the Culture of Conquest
Feb. 11  "from sea to shining sea…"
Reading: The American West, 39-82, 120-132.

Week V:  The Golden (and Silver) West
Feb. 18  The ’49ers & The Silver State
FIRST PAPER DUE
Reading: Articles

Week VI  “The only good Indian…”
Feb. 25  Habitat Destruction and Open Warfare
Reading: The Lance and the Shield, The American West, 147-163

Week VII:  Eden in the West
March 4  Man as steward of Nature
Reading: Dispossessing the Wilderness

SPRING BREAK MARCH 9-17, 2002

Week VIII:  Exodus from Canaan
March 18  Immigrants from the East
Reading: The American West, 133-146, Articles

Week IX:  Home on the range?
March 25  The Cowboy & The Rancher
Reading: The American West, 164-178, Articles
SECOND PAPER DUE

Week X:  The Wild West - and other American myths
April 1  Outlaws & Lawmen/Saloon girls & school marms
Reading: With Badges & Bullets, Articles

Week XI:  Frontier life
April 8  “God willing and the creek don’t rise”
Reading: Rachel Calof Story, The American West, 179-202
Week XII: Cultivating the Garden  
April 15  Master of his domain  
Reading: The Culture of Wilderness

Week XIII: Wandering in the Desert  
April 22  Trouble in the garden - the issue of labor  
Reading: The White Scourge, The American West, 202-233  
THIRD PAPER DUE

Week XIV: The New West - plowshares into swords  
April 29  Grain silos to missile silos  
Reading: Articles

A final will be scheduled for this class.