

History 965
 Fall Semester 2002
 Thurs. 3:30-5:30
 5257 Humanities

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Seminar in the History of the American West

This seminar is designed to introduce you to the historiography of what many have called the American West. But the places we study here have long been contested by a variety of peoples—residents, migrants, politicians, image makers, travelers, activists, and, of course, historians. So we also will have occasion to talk about places called by such names as El Norte, the frontier, the North American West, Gam Saan, the Pacific Rim, the Great West, the Middle Place, and Aztlan. We will be reminded constantly that there is power in naming.

Course requirements

1. General: Faithful attendance, prompt completion of weekly readings, interactive and respectful participation in discussion (class is a place for collective learning). If you must miss a class during the semester, please inform me before the class meeting, please do the assigned reading, and please submit a 3-4 page analytical paper on that reading the following week when you return.
2. Cofacilitation: Each week, one or two of you will serve as cofacilitator(s) for class discussion. In the week that you cofacilitate, you will also read and report on one of the supplemental texts assigned. Your report should last no more than 10 minutes, and it should serve as both an introduction to the book you've read and a springboard for discussion of the readings assigned to the whole class. In other words, you'll be responsible for making connections between the reading you've done on your own and the assigned weekly readings.
3. The journals project: Most weeks, one or two of you will make a 10-minute presentation on academic journals that publish articles in western history and in related fields of American studies, Canadian studies, Latin American studies, ethnic history, gender history, labor history, environmental history, and the history of sexuality. The journals on which you will present are: *Amerasia*; *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*; *American Indian Quarterly*; *American Historical Review*; *American Quarterly*; *Aztlan*; *Canadian Historical Review*; *Environmental History*; *Ethnohistory*; *Feminist Studies*; *Frontiers*; *Gender and History*; *Genders*; *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*; *Great Plains Quarterly*; *Hispanic American Historical Review*; *International Labor and Working-Class History*; *Journal of American History*; *Journal of Canadian Studies*; *Journal of Ethnic History*; *Journal of Women's History*; *Journal of the History of Sexuality*; *Labor History*; *Latin American Perspectives*; *Pacific Historical Review*; *positions*; *Radical History Review*; *Signs*; *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*; *Western American Literature*; *Western Historical Quarterly*; and the various state history journals, such as *New Mexico Historical Review*; *Montana, The Magazine of Western History*; *California History*, and the like.
4. Written work: You will write two kinds of papers for this class.

First, you will write a 2-3 page (500-750 word) book review of one of the books assigned to the class as a whole (of the style you might find in American Historical Review, Journal of American History, Western Historical Quarterly, or Pacific Historical Review). This paper should be double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins. It should have no grammatical or typographical errors or misspellings. When in doubt, please consult: William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, Elements of Style, 4th ed.; and Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed. (If you don't own these reference works, I suggest that you purchase them, as you'll use them throughout your career.) Your review is due on Thurs. Oct. 24, and it should be written about a book that will not be considered in your second paper.

Your second paper will be a 12-15 page (3000 to 3750 word) historiographical essay that situates an issue or controversy of current concern to western historians in relation to scholarship that has addressed similar issues or controversies before the 1980s and 90s. Please discuss your interests with me by Oct. 15, and turn in a complete bibliography by Thurs. Nov. 7. The completed essay is due on Thurs. Dec. 5. Unless you turn in a perfect paper, expect to receive this paper back with my comments on Thurs. Dec. 12. You will have until Tues. Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. to revise your paper and turn it in to my mailbox on the fifth floor of Humanities. Your historiographical essay should be double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins. It should have no grammatical or typographical errors or misspellings. It should include footnotes or endnotes. Please use the standard humanities style of documentation as detailed in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th ed., or The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th ed. (If you don't own one of these guides, I suggest that you purchase one, as you'll use it throughout your graduate career.)

Readings

The following books can be purchased at the University Book Store, and are on reserve at the State Historical Society Library:

Brenda Child, *Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998).

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1991).

Neil Foley, *The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).

James Gregory, *American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).

Camille Guerin-Gonzales, *Mexican Workers and American Dreams: Immigration, Repatriation, and California Farm Labor, 1900-1939* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1994).

Susan Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000).

Valerie Matsumoto and Blake Allmendinger, eds., *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999). [Abbreviated as *OTE* in syllabus.]

María Montoya, *Translating Property: The Maxwell Land Grant and the Conflict Over Land in the American West, 1840-1900* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West, 1880-1930* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001).

Quintard Taylor, *In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the American West, 1528-1990* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1999).

Elliot West, *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000).

Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991).

Chris Wilson, *The Myth of Santa Fe: Creating a Modern Regional Tradition* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997).

If you feel that you need some background in western history to supplement the assigned readings, you might consider purchasing one of the following overviews:

Robert V. Hine and John Mack Faragher, *The American West: A New Interpretive History* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2000).

Patricia Nelson Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1987).

Richard White, *"It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own": A New History of the American West* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991).

If you need a reference work in western history, the very best is:

Howard R. Lamar, ed., *The New Encyclopedia of the American West* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1998).

Calendar and Assignments

Sept. 5

Course introduction

Sept. 12 Whose West?

Reading:

Taylor, *In Search of the Racial Frontier*

OPE: Douglas Flamming, "A Westerner in Search of 'Negro-ness': Region and Race in the Writing of Arna Bontemps"; Virginia Scharff, "Mobility, Women, and the West"

Book reports:

Matthew Basso, Laura McCall, and Dee Garceau, eds., *Across the Great Divide: Cultures of Manhood in the American West* (New York: Routledge, 2001).

Elizabeth Jameson and Susan Armitage, eds., *Writing the Range: Race, Class, and Culture in the Women's West* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997).

Journal reports:

Western Historical Quarterly

Great Plains Quarterly

Sept. 19 Which West?

Reading:

Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*

OTE: Louise Jeffredo-Warden, "Perceiving, Experiencing, and Expressing the Sacred: An Indigenous Southern California View"; Mike Davis, "Dead West: Ecocide in Marlboro Country"

Book reports:

Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West* (New York: Pantheon, 1985).

Patricia Nelson Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1987).

Journal reports:

Pacific Historical Review
Environmental History

Sept. 26 Border Crossers

Reading:

Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor*

OTE: Anne Goldman, "'I Think Our Romance is Spoiled,' or Crossing Genres: California History in Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona* and María Amparo Ruiz de Burton's *The Squatter and the Don*"; Jesús Martínez-Saldaña, "La Frontera del Norte"

Book reports:

Madeline Yuan-yin Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home: Transnationalism and Migration Between the United States and South China, 1882-1943* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2000).

Katherine Morrissey, *Mental Territories: Mapping the Inland Empire* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1997).

Emma Pérez, *The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999). [Please note that Professor Pérez will be speaking at UW on Sat. Sept. 28 as part of the one-day conference, "Headwaters: The Past and Future of Women's History." Please plan to attend.]

Journal reports:

American Historical Review
Ethnohistory
Journal of American History

Oct. 3 This Land is Whose Land?

Reading:

Montoya, *Translating Property*

OTE: Blake Allmendinger, "Toga! Toga!"; Peggy Pascoe, "Race, Gender, and the Privileges of Property: On the Significance of Miscegenation Law in the U.S. West"

Book reports:

William deBuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1985).

Deena González, *Refusing the Favor: The Spanish-Mexican Women of Santa Fe, 1820-1880* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Charles Montgomery, *The Spanish Redemption : Heritage, Power, and Loss on New Mexico's Upper Rio Grande* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

Journal reports:

Aztlan

Hispanic American Historical Review

Latin American Perspectives

Southwestern Historical Quarterly

Oct. 10 California Dreams

Reading:

Gregory, *American Exodus*

Guerin-Gonzales, *Mexican Workers and American Dreams*

OTE: Arlene de Vera, "The Tapaia-Saiki Incident: Interethnic Conflict and Filipino Responses to the Anti-Filipino Exclusion Movement"; Valerie Matsumoto, "Japanese American Women and the Creation of Urban Nisei Culture in the 1930s"; Chris Friday, "Competing Communities at Work: Asian Americans, European Americans, and Native Alaskans in the Pacific Northwest, 1938-1947"

Book reports:

Matt García, *A World of Its Own: Race, Labor, and Citrus in the Making of Greater Los Angeles* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001).

George Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979).

Journal reports:

International Labor and Working-Class History

Journal of Ethnic History

Labor History

Radical History Review

Oct. 17

No class meeting: work on first and second papers.

Oct. 24 Middle Grounds

Note: First paper due in class.

Reading:

White, *The Middle Ground*

OTE: Ramón Gutiérrez, “Crucifixion, Slavery, and Death: The Hermanos Penitentes of the Southwest”

Book reports:

Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1991).

Lucy Eldersveld Murphy, *A Gathering of Rivers: Indians, Métis, and Mining in the Western Great Lakes, 1737-1832* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000).

Journal reports:

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

American Indian Quarterly

Canadian Historical Review

Journal of Canadian Studies

Oct. 31 Edge Places

Reading:

Johnson, *Roaring Camp*

OTE: Mary Murphy, “Making Men in the West: The Coming of Age of Miles Cavanaugh and Martin Frank Dunham”; Miroslava Chavez, “‘Pongo mi demanda’: Challenging Patriarchy in Mexican Los Angeles, 1830-1850”

Book reports:

Elizabeth Jameson, *All That Glitters: Class, Culture, and Community in Cripple Creek* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998).

Mary Murphy, *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914-41* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997).

Journal reports:

Feminist Studies

Frontiers

Journal of Women’s History

Signs

Nov. 7 Roots, Branches, Visions

Note: Bibliography for second paper due in class.

Reading:

West, *Contested Plains*

Book reports:

Sarah Deutsch, *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on an Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987).

Alexandra Harmon, *Indians in the Making: Ethnic Relations and Indian Identities around Puget Sound* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998).

Valerie Matsumoto, *Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1993).

Journal reports:

Amerasia

positions

American Quarterly

Western American Literature

Nov. 14 Is it Catching?

Reading:

Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides*

OTE: Jennifer Watts, "Mae West's (re)Presentation of Western Religion"; William Deverell, "Plague in Los Angeles, 1924: Ethnicity and Typicality"

Book reports:

Kay Anderson, *Vancouver's Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991).

Yong Chen, *Chinese San Francisco, 1850-1943: A Trans-Pacific Community* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2000).

Sharon Ullman, *Sex Seen: The Emergence of Modern Sexuality in America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).

Journal reports:

Gender and History

Genders

GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies

Journal of the History of Sexuality

Nov. 21 Making Change

Reading:

Child, *Boarding School Seasons*

OTE: Karen Anderson, "Changing Woman: Maternalist Politics and 'Racial Rehabilitation' in the U.S. West"; Melissa Meyer, "American Indian Blood Quantum Requirements: Blood is Thicker than Family"

Book reports:

K. Tsianina Lomawaima, *They Called it Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994).

Peggy Pascoe, *Relations of Rescue: The Search for Female Moral Authority in the American West, 1874-1939* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990).

Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).

Journal reports:

various western state history journals, such as,

California History

Montana, The Magazine of Western History

New Mexico Historical Review

Nov. 28

No class meeting: Thanksgiving

Dec. 5 Racial Fault Lines

Note: *Second paper due in class.*

Reading:

Foley, *The White Scourge*

Book reports:

Tomás Almaguer, *Racial Fault Lines: The Historical Origins of White Supremacy in California* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).

David Gutiérrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).

David Montejano, *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1987).

Dec. 12 Creating New Wests

Note: Papers will be returned to you in class.

Reading:

Wilson, *The Myth of Santa Fe*

OTE: Patricia Nelson Limerick, "Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West"

Book reports:

Krista Comer, *Landscapes of the New West: Gender and Geography in Contemporary Women's Writing* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Hal Rothman, *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth-century American West* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998).

Tues. Dec. 17 Final draft of second paper due in my mailbox (5th floor Humanities) by 4 p.m.