

**HIST 151: “The Wild, Wild West”:
Battles Over the American West and the Western Image
Messiah College**

January Term 2013
daily
8:45 a.m.-noon
Boyer 131

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& by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Much of America’s history hinges on the West. The nation’s geographical and economic growth relied heavily on the use of western resources. Its picturesque landscapes have served as pictures of America as a whole for many. Furthermore, many Americans’ notions of who they are and what their country stands for have borrowed liberally from images of the American West. In recent decades, frequent disputes have arisen concerning the nature of the West. These disputes have often become heated precisely because many Americans understand the West in the same manner as the writer Wallace Stegner who famously described it as being “America, only more so.” Thus, attacks on the history of the West imply attacks on America; likewise, praising the history of the West seems to signify praising America. This course will examine the discussions that have taken place among historians and Americans as a whole about the meaning of the American West and the uses of western images. Six major themes we will explore during the course are the relationships--in both western history and imagery--between:

whites & non-whites
humans & the environment
men & women
violence & justice
individualism & community
region & nation

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Historical Knowledge: Students will have a better historical understanding of political, social, cultural, economic, and religious practices and structures.
2. Historical Methods: Students will demonstrate an understanding of historical causation, an ability to conduct basic historical analysis of primary and secondary sources, and an ability to communicate that analysis in effective written and oral communication.
3. Historical Interpretation: Students will use texts and other cultural resources to make sense of the past, understand ways in which the past influences the present, and consider how the present influences our study of the past.
4. Historical Convictions: Students will become more thoughtful, curious, and empathetic due to their evaluation of the historical complexity of human identities, cultures, and societies from the perspective of Christian faith.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Milner, Clyde et. al., eds. *The Oxford History of the American West*.

New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Online readings listed below.

WESTERN MOVIES TO BE VIEWED IN CLASS:

Stagecoach (1939)

My Darling Clementine (1946)

Hud (1963)

REQUIREMENTS:

attend class and participate regularly

complete all readings listed below in course schedule

complete several in-class writing exercises

complete three short papers of 2 double-spaced pages each

write a paper of 5-7 double-spaced pages in response to a western novel or western movie

write several quizzes

write a final exam

STANDARD OF EVALUATION:

The final grade for the course will be derived as follows:

class participation & group work	5%
in-class writing	5%
short papers	15%
paper on western movie or novel	15%
quizzes	20%
tests	20%
final exam	20%

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

It goes without saying that you must attend class regularly in order to participate. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Beyond this minimal participation in the class (which, by itself, will earn you only a minimal participation grade), you can gain participation points by regularly asking or answering questions, and by responding to readings, lectures, and movies when given the opportunity.

STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUPS:

Students will participate in one of six groups. Among other things, each group will be responsible for leading class discussion on a chapter in the Milner book and writing a quiz on it.

IN-CLASS WRITING:

Students will be given several opportunities to respond to readings, movies, or other course materials through brief written exercises done in class. These will be read and evaluated by the instructor.

SHORT PAPERS:

Each student will write 3 short papers of 2 double-spaced pages each on topics selected from the list below.

List of possible topics
for short paper #1
(Jan. 10-11):

Lewis and Clark expedition
Santa Fe Trail
Pony Express
Transcontinental railroad
Homestead Act (1862)

List of possible topics
for short paper #2
(Jan. 15-17):

Sand Creek Massacre
Sitting Bull
Chinese Exclusion Act
Chisolm Trail
Reclamation/Newlands Act
Carry Nation
woman suffrage in the West

List of possible topics
for short paper #3
(Jan. 22-24):

Lawrence Massacre
Wild Bill Hickok
Billy the Kid
Johnson County Range War
Nat Love (“Deadwood Dick”)
Narcissa Whitman
William Jennings Bryan
John Muir

Short papers are due in class the day the topic of the research is addressed. They should include both summary of the material used as well as analysis of it. Use the relevant primary source(s) as your starting point, and also use relevant sections of at least two of the reference books below, which are on reserve:

The American West. By Robert Hine & John Mack Faragher. F591 H662 2000.

“It’s Your Misfortune and None of My Own.” By Richard White. F591 W69 1991.

The New Encyclopedia of the American West. Edited by Howard R. Lamar. F591 N46 1998.

Westward Expansion. By Ray Allen Billington. E179.5 B63 1974.

PAPER ON WESTERN MOVIE OR NOVEL:

Each student will write a paper of 5-7 double-spaced pages that discusses either a western movie or novel selected from the lists below. In addition to a brief summary of the movie or novel, papers should focus on the movie or novel’s treatment of one of the course’s six major themes. Among other things, papers should discuss in what ways the approach of the novel or movie corresponds to other course materials. Students must decide on a novel or movie to write about by Wed., Jan. 16, must have begun to read or view it and be prepared to analyze some particular aspect of it by Wed., Jan. 23, and must turn in the paper on Tues., Jan. 29 and briefly discuss it at that time.

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam on the last day of class (Wed., Jan. 30) will consist of two essays, both of them comprehensive in that they will address the entire span of the course. The essays you write on the exam should be well-organized, persuasive, and draw on materials from different facets of the course--lectures, readings, class discussions, and movies--for examples and evidence.

NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Personal integrity is a behavioral expectation for all members of the Messiah community: administration, faculty, staff, and students. Violations of academic integrity are not consistent with the community standards of Messiah College. These violations include:

Plagiarism: Submitting as one's own work part or all of any assignment (oral or written) which is copied, paraphrased, or purchased from another source, including on-line sources, without the proper acknowledgment of that source. Examples: failing to cite a reference, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, misrepresenting another's work as your own, etc.

Cheating: Attempting to use or using unauthorized material or study aids for personal assistance in examinations or other academic work. Examples: using a cheat sheet, altering a graded exam, looking at a peer's exam, having someone else take the exam for you, using any kind of electronic device, communicating via email, IM, or text messaging during an exam, etc.

Fabrication: Submitting altered or contrived information in any academic exercise. Examples: falsifying sources and/or data, etc.

Misrepresentation of Academic Records: Tampering with any portion of a student's record. Example: forging a signature on a registration form or change of grade form on paper or via electronic means.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Helping another individual violate this policy. Examples: working together on an assignment where collaboration is not allowed, doing work for another student, allowing one's own work to be copied.

Unfair Advantage: Attempting to gain advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: lying about the need for an extension on a paper, destroying or removing library materials, having someone else participate in your place, etc.

Penalties for Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy - A faculty member may exercise broad discretion when responding to violations of the Academic Integrity Policy. The range of responses may include failure of the course to a grade reduction of the given assignment. The typical consequence for violations will be failure of the assignment. Some examples of serious offenses which might necessitate the penalty of the failure of the course include cheating on an examination, plagiarism of a complete assignment, etc. The academic integrity policy in its entirety can be found in the student handbook and should be reviewed by every student, as the primary responsibility for knowledge of and compliance with this policy rests with the student.

NOTE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services. Contact DisabilityServices@messiah.edu, (717) 796-5382.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(NOTE: ALL DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Wed., Jan. 9 - Introduction; Turner & Western Historiography

reading [in class]:

Oxford History of the American West, introduction: "America Only More So" [pp. 1-7]

Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893), excerpt
- handout

Patricia Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (1987),
excerpt - handout

Donald Worster, "New West, True West: Interpreting the Region's History" (1987),
excerpt - handout

Thurs., Jan. 10 - Creation of the American West I

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 5: "National Initiatives" [pp. 155-192]

The National Land Ordinance of 1785, excerpts

<http://historicaltextarchive.com/sections.php?action=read&artid=218>

A Diagram of the National Land Ordinance of 1785

http://www.thegreatamericangrid.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/1785_Land_Ordinance_Diagram.jpg

The Northwest Ordinance (1787)

<http://www.in.gov/history/2479.htm>

President Thomas Jefferson's Instructions to Captain Meriwether Lewis (1803)

<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/jefflett.html>

Meriwether Lewis's Initial Report to President Thomas Jefferson (1806)

http://college.cengage.com/history/primary_sources/us/lewis_report_president.htm

John L. O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity," *Democratic Review* (November 1839)

http://www.durmushocaoglu.com/data/kutuphane/17_The_Great_Nation_of_Futurity.pdf

A. A. Hayes, "The Santa Fe Trail," *Harper's Monthly* (July 1880): 185-90 only.

<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=harp;cc=harp;rgn=full%20text;idno=harp0061-2;didno=harp0061-2;view=image;seq=0195;node=harp0061-2%3A3>

The Treaty of Fort Laramie (1851)

http://www.canku-luta.org/PineRidge/laramie_treaty.html

Fri., Jan. 11 - Creation of the American West II;

group #1 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 6

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 6: "Entering the Global Economy" [pp. 195-233]

Louise Clappe letter (April 10, 1852) [on life in California during the gold rush]

http://www.familytales.org/dbDisplay.php?id=ltr_lac866

Mark Twain, *Roughing It* (1872), chapter 8 [on the Pony Express]

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new2?id=TwRoug.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=8&division=div1>

Central Pacific Railroad Photographic History Museum online exhibit: "Dot, Dot, Dot... Done!"

<http://www.cpr.org/Museum/Done!.html>

The Homestead Act (1862)

http://www.ourdocuments.gov/print_friendly.php?page=transcript&doc=31&title=Transcript+of+Homestead+Act+%281862%29

Mon., Jan. 14 - Western Movie: *Stagecoach* (1939) & discussion

reading:

"Old Master," *Time* 102 (September 17, 1973). Via Academic Search Complete database.

"Monumental Vision," *Wild West* 22 (June 2009). Via Academic Search Complete database.

"Western Star Harry Carey Jr., 1921-2012" [9-min. audio interview by Terry Gross]

<http://www.npr.org/2013/01/02/168462591/remembering-actor-harry-carey-1921-2012>

Tues., Jan. 15 - Relationship between Whites & Non-Whites

reading:

Henry Whipple, *Light and Shadows of a Long Episcopate* (1899), ch 10, excerpts [on the Sioux Uprising of 1862]

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/dakota/Light&Shadows.html#duty>

Two letters to newspapers re. Sand Creek Massacre

<http://www.nanations.com/dishonor/sand-creek-massacre.htm>

<http://www.nanations.com/dishonor/letter-wm-biers.htm>

Wovoka's message

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/eight/gdmessg.htm>

Account of Sitting Bull's death by James McLaughlin (1891)

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/eight/sbarrest.htm>

Coverage of anti-Chinese riot in Los Angeles, *Los Angeles Daily News* (October 25, 1871)

http://inside.sfuhs.org/dept/history/US_History_reader/Chapter7/antichineseriot.pdf

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=27

James Phelan, "Why the Chinese Should Be Excluded," *The North American Review* (November 1901): 674-676 only

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25105245>

Wed., Jan. 16 - Relationship between Humans & the Environment;

Movie/novel choice due;

Test on course materials of Jan. 9-15

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 7: "Animals and Enterprise" [pp. 237-273]

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 8: "An Agricultural Empire" [pp. 275-311]

Charles Moreau Harger, "Cattle Trails of the Prairies," *Scribner's* (June 1892)

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-cattletrails-harger.html>

Joseph Nimmo, "The American Cowboy," *Harper's Monthly* (November 1886)

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-americancowboy.html>

Reclamation / Newlands Act of 1902

<http://www.ccrh.org/comm/umatilla/primary/newlands.htm>

Thurs., Jan. 17 - Relationship between Men & Women;

group #2 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 9

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 9: "A Saga of Families" [pp. 315-354]

Carry A. Nation, *The Use and Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation* (1909), ch 8

[http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new2?id=NatUsea.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=8&division=div1)

[new2?id=NatUsea.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=8&division=div1](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new2?id=NatUsea.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=8&division=div1)

Susan B. Anthony & Ida Husted Harper, eds., *The History of Woman Suffrage, Volume IV*, pp. 759-761

<http://www.freefictionbooks.org/books/h/6942-the-history-of-woman-suffrage-volume-iv?start=758>

Fri., Jan. 18 - Western Movie: *My Darling Clementine* (1946) & discussion

Mon., Jan. 21 - [no class meeting; Martin Luther King Day Recess]

Tues., Jan. 22 - Relationship between Violence & Justice;
group #3 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 11

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 11: "Violence" [pp.393-423]

The Lawrence Massacre (1863) [on the Lawrence Massacre / Quantrill's Raid]

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/four/lawrence.htm>

"Told of Wild Bill," *Daily Argus News* (March 28, 1894) [on Wild Bill Hickok]

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2309&dat=18940328&id=-XAnAAAIBAJ&sjid=MgQGAAAAIBAJ&pg=3383,3075984>

Emerson Hough, *The Story of the Outlaw* (1907), excerpt [on Billy the Kid]

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-desertoutlaws.html>

E. Hough, *The Story of the Cowboy* (1898), pp. 309-318 only [on the Johnson County Range War]

<http://ia700409.us.archive.org/18/items/storyofthecowboy027079mbp/storyofthecowboy027079mbp.pdf>

The Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Better Known in Cattle Country as "Deadwood Dick" by Himself (1907), ch 22

http://www.natlove.com/deadwood_dick_ch22_001.htm

The Confessions and Autobiography of Harry Orchard (1907), ch 16

http://www.rebelgraphics.org/wfmhall/harry_orchard_confession16.html

Wed., Jan. 23 - Relationship between Individualism & Community;
Initial analysis of western movie/novel due;

Test on course materials of Jan. 16-22

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 10: "Religion and Spirituality" [pp. 359-390]

Letters and Journals of Narcissa Whitman

(Mar. 30, 1837; June 25, 1839; May 2, 1840; Oct. 1, 1841; Feb. 2, 1842)

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/two/whitman2.htm>

William Swain letter (July 4, 1849)

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/three/swain1.htm>

William Swain letter (January 6, 1850)

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/three/swain2.htm>

Jean Rio Baker diary entries (July-September 1851)

<http://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/trailExcerpt?lang=eng&companyId=75&sourceId=4882>

Thurs., Jan. 24 - Relationship between Region & Nation;
group #4 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 14;

MLK chapel, 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Rev. Billy Kyles in Brubaker Auditorium

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 13: "The Federal Presence" [pp. 469-499]

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 14: "Politics and Protests" [pp. 501-532]

The Omaha Platform of the Populist Party (1892)

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5361/>

William Jennings Bryan's "Cross of Gold" speech (1896)

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/>

John Muir, "The Hetch Hetchy Valley," *Sierra Club Bulletin* (January 1908)

http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/writings/the_yosemite/chapter_16.aspx

Fri., Jan. 25 - Western Movie: *Hud* (1963) & discussion

Mon., Jan. 28 - The American West as Depicted in Art & Literature;
group #5 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 19

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 19: "The Visual West" [pp. 675-704]

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 20: "The Literary West" [pp. 707-739]

Robert Hughes, "How the West was Spun," *Time* (May 13, 1991).

Via Academic Search Complete database.

"Showdown at 'The West As America' Exhibition," *American Art* 5 (Summer 1991).

Via JStor database.

Peter Monaghan, "At 100, the Western Still Spurs Scholars," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (December 13, 2002). Via Academic Search Complete database.

Tues., Jan. 29 - The Western Image Revisited;

group #6 gives quiz & leads discussion on *OHAW*, ch. 22;

Presentations on papers on western movie/novel

reading:

Oxford History of the American West, ch. 22: "Selling the Popular Myth" [pp. 771-799]

The life of Hon. William F. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill (1879), ch 28: "An Actor"

<http://library.untraveledroad.com/Ch/Cody/Buffalo/Actor.htm>

Jay Price, "Still Facing John Wayne After All These Years: Bringing New Western History to Larger Audiences," *Public Historian* 31 (November 2009): 80-84. Via JStor database.

Patricia Limerick, "Examining 'The Heart of the West,'" *Public Historian* 31 (November 2009): 90-96. Via JStor database.

Wed., Jan. 30 - Final Exam

list of possible western movies (on reserve) for paper:

<i>3:10 to Yuma</i> (1957)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 T474 2002
<i>All the Pretty Horses</i> (2000)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 A45 2001
<i>Bend of the River</i> (1952)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 B463 2003
<i>Bonnie and Clyde</i> (1967)	Murray Library PN1995.9.G3 B658 2008a
<i>Broken Arrow</i> (1950)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 B765 2007
<i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> (1969)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 B8834 2006
<i>Dances with Wolves</i> (1990)	Murray Library PN1995.9.I48 D3634 2003
<i>Duel in the Sun</i> (1946)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 D84 2004
<i>Far and Away</i> (1992)	Murray Library PN1995.9.A3 F34 1998
<i>The Far Country</i> (1955)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 F37 2003
<i>Fistful of Dollars</i> (1964)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 F578 2006
<i>Fort Apache</i> (1948)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 F775 2006
<i>The Good, the Bad and the Ugly</i> (1966)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 G6638 2006
<i>High Noon</i> (1952)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 H54 2002
<i>Little Big Man</i> (1970)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 L588 2003
<i>The Magnificent Seven</i> (1960)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 M356 2001
<i>A Man Called Horse</i> (1970)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 M3593 2003
<i>The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance</i> (1962)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 M363 2009
<i>Open Range</i> (2003)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 O646 2004
<i>Pale Rider</i> (1985)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 P354 2010
<i>Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid</i> (1973)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 P38 2006
<i>The Quick and the Dead</i> (1995)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 Q753 2003
<i>Red River</i> (1948)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 R437 1997
<i>Ride the High Country</i> (1962)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 R534 2006
<i>Rio Bravo</i> (1959)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 R56 2001
<i>Rio Grande</i> (1950)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 R565 2002
<i>The Searchers</i> (1956)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 S43 2006
<i>Shane</i> (1953)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 S436 2000
<i>Shanghai Noon</i> (2000)	Murray Library PN1995.9.A3 S5364 2000
<i>She Wore a Yellow Ribbon</i> (1949)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 S54 2006
<i>Smoke Signals</i> (1998)	Murray Library PN1995.9.I48 S661 2000
<i>They Died With Their Boots On</i> (1941)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W3 T54 2005
<i>True Grit</i> (1969)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 T783 2007
<i>True Grit</i> (2010)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 T784 2011
<i>Unforgiven</i> (1992)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 U536 2003
<i>The Wild Bunch</i> (1969)	Murray Library PN1995.9.W4 W55 1997
[others approved by instructor]	

list of possible western novels for paper:

Mark Twain, *Roughing It* (1872)
Owen Wister, *The Virginian* (1902)
Jack London, *The Call of the Wild* (1903)
Jack London, *The Valley of the Moon* (1916)
Zane Grey, *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1912)
Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!* (1913)
Willa Cather, *My Ántonia* (1918)
Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927)
O. E. Rølvaag, *Giants in the Earth* (1929)
John Steinbeck, *Tortilla Flat* (1935)
John Steinbeck, *In Dubious Battle* (1939)
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
Conrad Richter, *The Sea of Grass* (1937)
Walter Clark, *The Ox-Bow Incident* (1940)
Alfred Guthrie, *The Big Sky* (1947)
Louis L'Amour, *Hondo* (1953)
Jack Schaefer, *Shane* (1954)
Jack Schaefer, *Monte Walsh* (1963)
Harvey Ferguson, *The Conquest of Don Pedro* (1954)
Elmore Leonard, *Hombre* (1961)
Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1962)
Joan Didion, *Run River* (1963)
Joan Didion, *Play It As It Lays* (1971)
N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (1968)
Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose* (1971)
Elmer Kelton, *The Time It Never Rained* (1974)
Glendon Swarthout, *The Shootist* (1975)
Norman Zollinger, *Riders to Cibola* (1978)
Larry McMurtry, *Lonesome Dove* (1985)
Larry McMurtry, *Anything for Billy* (1988)
Larry McMurtry, *Buffalo Girls* (1990)
Glendon Swarthout, *The Homesman* (1989)
Cormac McCarthy, *All the Pretty Horses* (1992)
Elmer Kelton, *The Day the Cowboys Quit* (1994)
[others approved by instructor]