The American West occupies a special place in American history. This course will survey major events in Western history, from the journey of Cabeza de Vaca and the Pueblo Revolt, to the Gold Rush and the Mexican American War, to World War II, the rise of the urban West, and 1960s political mobilization from Tierra Amarilla to Orange County to the Castro. Themes will include the West as geographic region, the West as place of cultural mixing, and the West of desire and fantasy.

Required Text:
Gary Anderson, Kathleen Chamberlain, *Power and Promise: The Changing American West*
Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land*
Margaret Jacobs, *Engendered Encounters*
Hal Rothman, *Devil’s Bargains*

Textbooks are available for purchase at the college bookstore. Readings are available through Blackboard.

Grading:
Class Participation/Attendance  20 points
Quizzes  30 points
Paper #1  50 points
Paper #2  50 points
Paper #3  50 points
Final Grade will be out of 200 total points.

Class Participation:
Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, respectful participation in classroom discussion are required features of the class. Discussions will alternate between small groups and the entire class. Please be prepared to discuss the readings on the assigned date. Students will also be required to turn in book reviews at the beginning of the class discussion of the three assigned books.

Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade. Students will be allowed one absence, excused or unexcused, over the course of the semester without affecting the final grade for the course. The second absence will result in a loss of two points from the participation grade. Students missing three or more classes can receive no higher than a B+ for the course. Students who miss five or more classes will not receive credit for the course. Under special circumstances (prolonged illness, death in the family, etc), exceptions can be arranged through consultation with the instructor and the Dean of Students’ office.
Quizzes
Scheduled quizzes (see below for dates) covering the readings and lecture material will focus on critical events, individuals, and locations in Western History.

Written Assignments:
The major written assignments for the course will consist of three 5-page papers. The 1st paper will be a formal book review of *Violence Over the Land*. The 2nd paper will be a comparison and evaluation of two essays, chosen by the student, on a similar topic in Western history. The 3rd paper will be a comparison of a primary source selected by the student and one of the secondary sources from the assigned reading for the course. Papers must be legibly typed or word-processed, with reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins. Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits. Late papers will be penalized 2 points for every 24 hour period the papers are late. Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted. Students must complete all written assignments (including book reviews) in order to receive credit for the course.

Honor Code
All work in this class is governed by the Honor Code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at: [http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/courses/1/DSt/content/_162787_1/honorcode.pdf](http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/courses/1/DSt/content/_162787_1/honorcode.pdf). If you have questions about how the code applies to any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:
**Introduction**

*February 9*  
Introduction

*February 11*  
Power and Promise, Introduction, pgs. 1-6.  

**The First Westerners**

*February 16*  
Power and Promise, Chap. 1, pgs. 7-24.

*February 18*  
*Violence over the Land*, Epilogue, 267-293.

**The European Invasion of the West, 1519-1800**

*February 23*  
Power and Promise, Chap 2, pgs. 25-56.

*February 25*  
*Violence over the Land*, Chaps. 1-4, pgs. 16-118.  
**Please bring 1-2 page review of Introduction, Chaps 1-4 to class.**

**Americans and the Early Development of the West**

*March 2*  
Power and Promise, Chap. 3, pgs. 57-89.

*March 4*  
Book Discussion: *Violence over the Land*, entire book

*1st paper (Book Review) due in class, Thursday March 4, 2010*
Pioneers and the American Occupation of the West

March 9  Power and Promise, Chap. 4, pgs. 90-122.

March 11  Reading Quiz #1

The West in Conflict

March 16  Power and Promise, Chap. 5 (1st half), pgs. 123-138.

March 18  Power and Promise, Chap. 5 (2nd half), pgs. 138-150.

The Postwar West

March 23  Power and Promise, Chap. 6, pgs. 151-178

March 25  Introductory Paragraph Paper #2 Due, Discuss Paragraphs in Class

2nd paper due Friday March 26, 2010 by 5pm.

March 30, April 1  Spring Break, no class.

The Search for Law and Political Order in the West, 1850-1900

April 6  Power and Promise, Chap. 7, pgs. 179-213.
Engendered Encounters, Chaps. 1-2, pgs. 1-55.

April 8  Reading Quiz #2

Diversity and Identity in the West, 1870-1917

April 13  Power and Promise, Chap. 8, pgs. 214-248.

April 15  Book Discussion: Engendered Encounters, entire book

The Western Progressives, 1890-1929

April 20  Power and Promise, Chap. 9, pgs. 249-285.
Devil’s Bargains, Preface, Chap. 1, pgs. 1-28

April 22  Devil’s Bargains, Chaps. 2-3, pgs. 29-80.

Forging a New Identity

April 27  Power and Promise, Chap. 10, pgs. 286-315.
Devil’s Bargains, Chaps. 4-5, pgs. 81-142.

April 29  Reading Quiz #3
The Modern West

May 4
Power and Promise, Chap. 11, pgs. 316-352.
Devil’s Bargains, Chaps. 6-7, pgs. 143-201.

May 6
Power and Promise, Chap. 12, 353-393.
Devil’s Bargains, Chaps. 8-9, pgs. 202-251.

The Challenges of Change

May 11
Book Discussion: Devil’s Bargains, entire book.

May 13
Class Summary

Final paper due Thursday, May 20, 2010 by 4pm.