Oberlin College  
Department of History

History 257: American West  
Spring 2012  
MWF 10:00-10:50 AM  
Pablo Mitchell  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12, Fridays 11-12 (and by appointment)

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:  
Richard Etulain, *Beyond the Missouri*  
Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land*  
Andrew Graybill, *Policing the Great Plains*  
Margaret Jacobs, *Engendered Encounters*  
Textbooks are available for purchase at the college bookstore.

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 (1-2 pages in length) describing the assigned readings at the beginning of the scheduled discussion section.

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 reading quizzes (see below for dates) covering the readings and lecture material will focus on critical events, individuals, and locations in the history of the American West.

Written Assignments:
The major written assignments for the course will consist of three 5 page papers. 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://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.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 6*  
Introduction

*February 8*  
Beyond the Missouri, Introduction, pgs. 1-5.

*February 10*  

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**Western Landscapes and First Peoples**

*February 13*  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 1, pgs. 6-35
Violence over the Land, Chap. 1, pgs. 16-54.

*February 15*  
Violence over the Land, Chap. 2, pgs. 55-87.

*February 17*  
Discussion Sections (9am, 10am, and 12pm)
Please bring 1-2 page review of Introduction, Chaps 1-2 to class.

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**Spain in the Southwest**

*February 20*  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 2. pgs. 38-62.

*February 22*  
Violence over the Land, Chap. 3, pgs. 88-118.

*February 24*  
Violence over the Land, Chap. 4, pgs. 119-144.

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**Imperial Rivals and Colonial Empires**

*February 27*  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 3. pgs. 63-91.
February 29  
*Introductory Paragraph Paper #1 Due, Discuss Paragraphs in Class*

March 2  
*Discussion Sections (9am, 10am, and 12pm)*  
Book Discussion: Violence over the Land, entire book

**1st paper due in discussion section, Friday March 2, 2012**

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**Opening the West**

March 5  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 4, pgs. 92-106.

March 6 (Tuesday)  
*Karl Jacoby Lecture, 4:30 Location TBA*

March 7  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 4, pgs. 106-120.

March 9  
*Reading Quiz #1*

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**Goin’ West**

March 12  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 5, pgs. 121-147.

March 14  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 6, pgs. 148-178.

March 16  
No Class

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**Ordering the Land, Ordering the People**

March 19  
*Reading Quiz #2*

March 21  
Policing the Great Plains, Introduction, Epilogue, pgs. 1-4, 201-204.

March 23  
Policing the Great Plains, Chap. 1, pgs. 5-22.

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March 26-30  
*Spring Break, no class.*

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**Ranching, Farming, and Transportation Networks**

April 2  
Beyond the Missouri, Chaps 7-8, pgs. 179-239.  
Policing the Great Plains, Chaps. 2-4, pgs. 23-157.

April 4  
Policing the Great Plains, Chap. 5, pgs. 158-200.

April 6  
*Discussion Sections (9am, 10am, and 12pm)*  
Book Discussion: Policing the Great Plains, entire book  
*Bring Graybill Book Review to Discussion Section*

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**Conflicts, Compromises, and Accommodations**

April 9  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap. 9, pgs. 240-272.

April 11  
*Introductory Paragraph Paper #2 Due, Discuss Paragraphs in Class*
April 13

2\textsuperscript{nd} paper due Friday April 13, 2012 by 12pm.

\textbf{Frontier Social Patterns and Culture}

\textit{April 16}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 10. pgs. 273-298.
Engendered Encounters, Chaps. 1-2, pgs. 1-55.

\textit{April 18}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 11. pgs. 299-312.
Engendered Encounters, Chap. 3, pgs. 56-81.

\textit{April 20}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 11. pgs. 312-328.

\textbf{Early Twentieth Century West, 1900-1940}

\textit{April 23}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 12. pgs. 329-360.
Engendered Encounters, Chaps. 4-5, pgs. 82-148.

\textit{April 25}  
Engendered Encounters, Chap. 6, pgs. 149-179.

\textit{April 27}  
Discussion Sections (9am, 10am, and 12pm)
Book Discussion: Engendered Encounters, entire book
\textit{Bring Jacobs Book Review to Discussion Section}

\textbf{World War II and the Cold War West, 1940-1980}

\textit{April 30}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 13. pgs. 362-390.

\textit{May 2}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 14. pgs. 391-407.

\textit{May 4}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 14. pgs. 408-420.

\textbf{In Search of Region: The American West 1980 to the Present}

\textit{May 7}  
Beyond the Missouri, Chap 15. pgs. 421-450.

\textit{May 9}  
\textit{Reading Quiz #3}

\textit{May 11}  
Class Summary

\textit{Final paper due Wednesday, May 16, 2012 by 9pm.}
\textit{Note: No late final papers will be accepted.}