History 257: American West  
Spring 2006  
MWF 9:00-9:50 AM  
Pablo Mitchell  
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Office Hours: **Tuesday 11-12, Wednesday 10-11, Friday 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 White, *It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own*

**Optional Texts for Book Reviews**  
Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire* (1985)

The textbook is available for purchase at MindFair books (and the college bookstore). All texts are available on reserve at Mudd Library and through Ohiolink. Additional readings are available Online and through Blackboard.

**Grading:**  
Class Participation/Attendance  
Quizzes  
Midterm Exam  
Final Exam  
Book Review  
**Final Grade will be out of 200 points**

- **Class Participation:**  
Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, respectful participation in classroom discussion are required
features of the class. Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade.

**Quizzes and Exams**
Scheduled reading quizzes (see below for dates) covering the readings and lecture material will focus on critical locations, concepts, events, and individuals in Western History. There will also be a midterm exam and a final exam.

**Written Assignment**
The written assignment for the course will be a 4-5 page book review. The book review should address the author’s thesis or main points, methodological approach, and historiographical concerns. The most successful essays will focus on both describing the author’s intentions and evaluating the work’s relative strengths and weaknesses. Students will choose one of the optional texts for the book review (other books may be substituted with permission of the instructor).

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 1 point 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 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://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-reg.html#honor. If you have questions about how the honor code applies to any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

**Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

**Monday February 6**
**Introduction**

**Wednesday February 8**
**New Days Rising**
Read: White, pgs. 1-26

**Friday February 10**
**New Days Rising**
Read: White, pgs. 27-53

**Monday February 13**
**Armies of Whiteness**
Read: White, pgs. 57-69

**Wednesday February 15**
**Armies of Whiteness**
Read: White, pgs. 70-84

**Friday February 17**
**Reform and Resistance**
Read: White, pgs. 85-102

Monday February 20  
**Reform and Resistance**  
Read: White, pgs. 103-117

Wednesday February 22  
**Reading Quiz**

Friday February 24  
**Mountain Men and Mountain Mommas**  
Read: White, pgs. 119-136

Monday February 27  
**Law and Order**  
Read: White, pgs. 137-178

Wednesday March 1  
**Gold Fever**  
Read: White, pgs. 179-194

Friday March 3  
**Wagons Ho!**  
Read: White, pgs. 194-211

Monday March 6  
**Little Houses on the Prairies**  
Read: White, pgs. 212-235

Wednesday March 8  
**Engines That Could**  
Read: White, pgs. 236-269  
William Cronon, “Annihilating Space: Meat”  
Available Through Blackboard in “Course Documents”

Friday March 10  
**Reading Quiz**

Monday March 13  
**Hard Days and Nights**  
Read: White, pgs. 270-297

Wednesday March 15  
**Drawn by Law**  
Read: White, pgs. 298-316  
Erika Lee, “Enforcing the Borders: Chinese Exclusion along the U.S. Borders with Canada and Mexico, 1882–1924”  
[http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/89.1/lee.html](http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/89.1/lee.html)

Friday March 17  
**West of Sex**  
Read: White, pgs. 316-327
Monday March 20               Social Distortions
          Read: White, pgs. 328-340

Wednesday March 22               Separate and Unequal
          Read: White, pgs. 340-352

Friday March 24               MidTerm Exam

Monday March 27                                        Spring Break

Wednesday March 29                                               Spring Break

Friday March 31                                           Spring Break

Monday April 3                     Securing the Perimeter
          Read: White, pgs. 353-387

Wednesday April 5               Chambers of Commerce
          Read: White, pgs. 391-430

Friday April 7                                    Bodies Impolitic
          Read: White, pgs. 431-443

Monday April 10                   Reading Quiz

Wednesday April 12              Bodies Impolitic
          Read: White, pgs. 443-457
          Louis S. Warren, “Cody’s Last Stand: Masculine Anxiety, the Custer Myth, and the Frontier of Domesticity in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West”
          http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/whq/34.1/warren.html

Friday April 14                      Great Depression
          Read: White, pgs. 461-477

Monday April 17                   Great Depression
Read: White, pgs. 477-495

**Wednesday April 19**  California Dreamin'  
Read: White, pgs. 496-517

**Friday April 21**   Reading Quiz

**Monday April 24**   Cities of Empire  
Read: White, pgs. 517-533

**Wednesday April 26**  Writing the Range  
Read: Patricia Limerick, “The Case of Premature Departure”  
Available on Blackboard and through web at:  
[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723%28199203%2978%3C1380%3ATCOTPD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-U](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723%28199203%2978%3C1380%3ATCOTPD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-U)

**Friday April 28**   Cities of Empire  
Read: White, pgs. 537-573

**Monday May 1**   Expanding the Parameters  
Read: White, pgs. 574-596

**Wednesday May 3**  City of Angels  
Read: White, pgs. 596-612

**Friday May 5**   Western History as American History  
Read: Frederick Jackson Turner, “Significance of the Frontier in American History”  
Available at [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/TURNER/](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/TURNER/) and Blackboard

**Monday May 8**   Electric Horsemen  
Bring Rough Draft of Book Review to Class

**Wednesday May 10**  With a Pistol in Her Hand  
Read: White, pgs. 613-634

**Friday May 11**   Lonesome, Crowded West

Book Review Due Friday May 11, 2006 by 5pm
Final Exam Date, Time, and Location T.B.A.