



HIST 264.01HE: The American West

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Derrick D. McKisick

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences (SS) #119

Office Hours: Tuesday/ Thursday 11:00 am-12:30 pm / 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Office Phone: 903.886.5222

Office Fax: 903.468.3230

University Email Address: derrick.mckisick@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: I will respond that day or the next business day.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Greenberg, Amy S. Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion, Second Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012.

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

ISBN: 0-8061-2567-5

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Ninth Edition*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2018.

Course Description

This course is designed to focus on the history of the American West. It provides an overview of different regions, cultures, peoples, and ideas that have been used to define this area. As one of the most culturally, ethnically, and geographically diverse regions of the United States, the West encompasses many different concepts of what it means to be an American. During the semester, we will examine why the West continues to be an important symbol of independence, distinctiveness, and freedom. Through this course, students should gain an appreciation of the wide variety of people, cultures, and races that have lived, settled, and moved west.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable)

1. Students will be able to identify the wider diversity of groups that came to populate the American West.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must be able to use D2L, library databases, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word.

Instructional Methods

Success in this course requires reading various types of materials, listening to lectures, oral presentations, exams, written assignments and papers.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students must complete all reading and assignments by the due date to be successful. This course requires students to engage in the assigned materials and produce a substantial amount of written work.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Grades

A 400- 360 (100%-90.00%); B 359-320 (89.99%-80.00%); C 319-280 (79.99%-70.00%),
D 279-240 (69.99%-60.00%), F 239 (59.99%– below)

The grading criteria of all written work will be based on the following descriptions:

A = Superior mastery of content and reading material; clear organization and factual accuracy; innovative interpretation or argument that responds to the specific directions of the assignment, test, or essay; clearly written.

B = Excellent command of the content and reading material; factual accuracy; a generally solid thesis driven historical argument backed with specific relevant evidence.

C = Average command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to produce a specific thesis driven argument that may not be original and is not supported by the evidence.

D = Poor command of content and failure to follow directions; historical errors of fact; no real thesis or argument driving the essay.

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Paper	100
Writing Assignment #1	40
Presentation	40
Participation	20

Assessments

Explanation by graded assessment type (percentage or points toward final grade)

Also, the relationship between the assessments and course-level student learning outcomes should be explained. Consider creating a table to show the alignment.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.

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- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browse](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browse)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.
 JavaScript is enabled.
 Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

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- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](#) and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the *'Tech Support'* icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu).
<https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.


<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

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FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email

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notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students are encouraged to make use of the instructor's office hours. Otherwise, I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday thru Friday between the hours of 9 to 5. Any emails sent on the weekend will be answered at my discretion.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit
Any additional reading assignments will be provided by the instructor in-class or through eCollege.

Required Reading: All students will be required to read and to discuss the assigned books. The books are available for purchase at internet websites (Amazon), and at a variety of regional retailers.

TURNITIN.COM: All typed assignments, exams, papers, and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate listing of the course's dropbox. Each assignment dropbox automatically uploads the work to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. This is a requirement for the course, and the students will not receive a grade until they have completed this process.

Writing Assignments

All writing assignments must be typed in 12 pt. New Times Roman font, doubled spaced, stapled and paginated with a 1" margin. Additionally, all assignments must include, on the first page, your name, assignment, my name, course number, and date. Students must submit an electronic copy to dropbox that turnitin.com can analyze and a paper copy to the instructor.

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If the student does not do both, the assignment will not be graded, and the student will receive a zero.

Attendance

Class attendance will be a part of your participation grade. All students will begin with twenty participation points. Since we will be meeting twice a week, starting with the third unexcused absence, your attendance score will drop by five points for each unexcused absence after your third unexcused absence. If the number of absences exceeds participation points, five points for each additional absence will be deducted from the overall grade.

Student Presentation

All students are required to make a class presentation regarding their research paper. Each presentation should include: a brief statement regarding the historical relevance of the topic, a statement of the research question, an analysis of the different historical arguments on the topic, a discussion of the primary and secondary sources, and finally, statement of the student's position. Additionally, all presentations must include a PowerPoint presentation. The presentations will last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Participation

The student's participation grade will be earned through taking part in classroom discussion sessions and attendance. Each student will lead discussions, participate in group led discussions, and present their own research. Although the student will not have a designated discussion leader role in each class, all students are encouraged to be prepared to participate fully in the class discussion and be prepared, if called upon, to take part in the class discussion. Class disruptions will not be tolerated. Each student will have one unexcused absence, for each additional absence the student will be docked ten points from their grade.

Late Submissions

All students are required to submit their assignment to the class dropbox and provide a hard copy on the day the assignment is due to the professor. For every assignment, there will be a five-point penalty for each day the assignment is late. The assignment is not complete unless the student has submitted an electronic copy to the dropbox and a hard copy to the professor.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other

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things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

January 14/16

Mandatory Reading: Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier" (1893); Herbert Bolton, "The Mission as a Frontier Institution in the Spanish-American Colonies," *American Historical Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1917):42-61; Patricia Nelson Limerick, "Turnerians All: The Dream of a Helpful History in an Intelligible World," *American Historical Review*, Vol. 100, No. 3 (1995): 697-716.

January 21/23

Mandatory Reading: Introduction -- White, 5-26.

January 28/ 30

Colonial West

Mandatory Reading: White, 27-59.

February 4/6

Nineteenth Century and the West

Mandatory Reading: White, 87-178

February 11/13

War of 1812 and Transformation of the Southeastern Borderlands

Mandatory Reading: Greenberg, 55-60 -- Primary Source Analysis

February 18/20

Indian Removal and Creation of Indian Territory

Mandatory: Greenberg, 62-70 – Primary Source Analysis

February 25/ 27

Review/ Test 1

March 3/5 Manifest Destiny

Mandatory: Greenberg, *Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion* 1-32; 84-103.

March 10-14 Spring Break

March 18/20

Federal Government and the Transformation of the West

Mandatory Reading: White, 181-235.

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March 25/ 27
Economic Development
Mandatory Reading: White, 236-327.

March 31/ April 2
Class, Conflict, and Confusion
Mandatory Reading: White, 328-393.

April 7/9
Power and the West
Mandatory Reading: White, 395-457

April 14/16
Transforming the West: The Great Depression and World War II
Mandatory Reading: White, 461-539
Presentations

April 21/23
Presentations

April 28/30
Review / Make-Up
Final Paper Due (April 30)

May 7
Final Exam 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

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