



UNCO 1301: Cowboys & Cowgirls

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022

Professor: Dr. Robert L. (Dr. Bob) Williams, Professor of Agriculture, Food, & Family Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Office Location: AGIT 145

Office Hours:

Monday	9:00-9:50 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00-9:50 a.m. and 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Thursday	9:30-11:30 a.m. or by appointment
Friday	by appointment only

Office Phone: 903-886-5350

Office Fax: 903-886-5990

University Email Address: bob.williams@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours except for weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s): *The Day the Cowboys Quit* by Elmer Kelton is a required western novel that will serve as the foundational reading for this course. A limited number of used paperbacks are available in the bookstore. It is also available in digital format. Students will be required to have internet access and software compatible with the university learning management system, D2L (Desire to Learn). Students will need MS Office to compose written assignments and Adobe Acrobat Reader to access handouts/required readings available via D2L.

Assignments in Google Docs or Dropbox will not be accepted.

Additionally, each student will be required to have a Facebook account since several aspects of the course will utilize a Facebook group page available to

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students in this course, the professor, and student instructors. Request access to Facebook group

TAMUC Cowboys & Cowgirls 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/422210509387277>

Software Required

Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and a web browser compatible with D2L are required. Note that while you may access some aspects of D2L via iPhone or iPad or other portable device, you may not be able to submit course assignments through that technology. You will also need some type of video recording/authoring software that is compatible with uploading to Facebook. If you do not have a personal computer, you may use computers in the university's Water's Library.

Course Description

A Signature Course at Texas A&M University- Commerce offers first-year students the opportunity to explore unique topics in engaging learning environments. Students develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility through a rigorous intellectual experience.

This course will focus on the role of the cowboy and cowgirl in reality and myth and will take students down the trails from the early origins of the vaquero to modern day ranchers, ranch hands, and rodeo competitors. We will explore the history of the cowboy culture in the American West, especially the Southwestern U.S. Culture, traditions, food customs, stereotypes, myths, legends, art, fashion, tack, and competitive events will serve as primary course concepts.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
2. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The student should be able to utilize the aforementioned software as well as save and upload files using the applicable software. Students should also become familiar with utilizing search engines and university library databases as well as distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources of information.

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Instructional Methods

Course will be delivered as a **face-to-face course on Mondays and Wednesdays** with **Flipped Fridays** for access and review of online media resources. Students will also have to collaborate with assigned team members on the Lionizing Project during the last four weeks of the semester. Each student will also engage in the *Lionizing* event that requires a presentation or demonstration of some aspect of learning relevant to the course. More detail about these opportunities will be provided throughout the course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Attendance, online engagement, timely submission of assignments, and engagement within the class, university, and community are essential to the successful completion of this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course content, class activities, and assessments will be guided by the following objectives. Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Interpret/create a timeline on the historical evolution of the cowboy.
2. Distinguish between myth and reality regarding stories of the American West.
3. Collect data through participation/observation and analyze/report results.
4. Differentiate between the traditions of the *vaquero*, *cowboy*, and *buckaroo*.
5. Discuss the ethical and practical aspects of *open range* and *deeded land*.
6. Debate economic and political implications of the ranching industry.
7. Analyze the role of entertainment, hospitality and celebrations *cowboy culture*.
8. Interpret maps and charts related to *cattle drives* and *geographical challenges*.
9. Define key vocabulary associated with ranching and cowboy traditions.
10. Appreciate art, music, poetry and fashion associated with cowboys and cowgirls.
11. Examine the relationship between cowboys/cowgirls and ranch owners.
12. Compare societal challenges of the *Old West* with those of *contemporary* America.
13. Investigate the influence of American popular culture on the *cowboy image*.
14. Explore *traditional* and *contemporary roles* of women in the American West.
15. Locate local and regional sources of *cowboy* and *cowgirl heritage*.
16. Observe or participate in *rodeo events* and activities.
17. Cooperate with classmates, guests, student instructors, and the professor.
18. Model all aspects of the *Cowboy Code*.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

The following course activities and assignments will be used as assessments of learning and determining grades.

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Activity or Assignment	Points
Introductory Video (shared with entire class on course FB page)	70
Class attendance and engagement (30 meetings @ 5)	150
Weekly discussions for each online module (2 x 10 each x 14 weeks)	280
Cowboy <i>lingo</i> (vocabulary)	100
Interpretation of <i>Cowboy/Cowgirl Art, Music, or Fashion</i>	100
Movie review	100
Rodeo reflection/report	100
Final Roundup (Lionizing Project)	<u>100</u>
Total Possible Points	1000

GRADING

Your grade = $\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{1000} \times 100$

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Students will create and post an **introductory video** of approximately 30 seconds, which includes the name of the student, hometown and/or high school attended, and favorite western movie, western novel, or rodeo event. Videos are to be posted on the closed Facebook page for this course during the first two weeks of the semester.

Discussion responses for each of two weekly prompts associated with the course resources for each week's module in D2L. One discussion will be related to the assigned novel, *The Day the Cowboys Quit* and the other will be related to the course materials (lectures, documents, videos, websites, etc.). These discussions will serve as a formative assessment to monitor your progress during the course.

Each student will compose an original list/glossary of keyword vocabulary (or **Cowboy Lingo**) associated with the course. Specific directions will be provided in D2L but the accumulated vocabulary will be used for part of the Lionizing Event.

Several modules will include representations of cowboy/cowgirl art, poetry, music, and fashion. Each student will select a work of art, poetry, music, or fashion and present a

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video, photographic, or performance essay reflecting the student's interpretation and understanding of the artist's motivation and/or rationale for the work.

The student will present a **30-60 second video** of the student's review of an approved movie or documentary reflecting cowboy/cowgirl life and culture. Nominations for an approved list of movies will be solicited during the third or fourth week of class.

Students will attend or observe a **rodeo held in 2022** (in person or via TV/internet) and compose a 2-3 page **Reflective Essay** over the event.

The **Final Roundup (Lionizing Project)** will consist of student presentations over a key aspect of cowboy/cowgirl culture. These presentations will be public (open to all of university and community) and may consist of a performance, poster presentation, or oral presentation/mini-lecture. More details will be presented in class discussions.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course. 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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Professor Statement

The professor and SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

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 things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that

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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: Sandi.Patton@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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