

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Course Number and Title: History 205, Westward Ho! How the West Was Won

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 3 Hours

2. Course Description: This course offers an overview of the making of the U.S. frontier--everything west of the Mississippi River--from about 1830 to 1890 and how that frontier became an American legend through Hollywood. Hist205 is designed for the student with little background in U.S. history who loves the tales and stories about the Wild Western frontier of the United States of the 19th century.

Using the interpretive framework of historians Frederick Jackson Turner, Walter Prescott Webb, and Ray Allen Billington, this course explores eight themes that characterize this unique region and period. While it recognizes the effect of major leaders and institutional and governmental policies in shaping the region, its singular emphases are the ordinary families and individuals who exemplified frontier values and defined the character of the West. These stalwart folk are the principal legends in Hollywood's portrayal of Westward expansion and life on the range. Their virtues are alive in the Western states of the United States even today.

3. Course Goals: Hist205 will:

- enable students to gain familiarity with the region of the Western United States and the historical period during which the West was "won";
- will correct popular misunderstandings and revisionist historical treatment about motivations and effects of policies and actions in the region;
- educate students to be able to apply this unique frontier experience to the larger thesis of "American Exceptionalism" in a way that reveals the heroism of the people and their place in American history.

4. Course Outcomes: To achieve the course goals, students will accomplish the following:

1. Apply the traditional "frontier school" of U.S. history as initiated by Frederick Jackson Turner and others to the study of the Old West in terms of its time and place in U.S. history. The early history of Texas.
2. Explain how policies and activities, such as homesteading, created the "agricultural frontier."
3. Explain how different types of mining methods, different materials sought and mined, and different economic conditions created a western "mining frontier" that lasted into the 20th century.
4. Explain the "cattleman's frontier" from its development post-Civil War,

describing its methods, equipment, locales, and impact on the economy from 1830 to 1890s.

5. Describe the emerging technology to the expansion homesteading, mining, cattle, and farming on the frontier.

6. Evaluate how the differing cultural and technological levels between the Indian tribes and expanding white settlements in the mid- to late 19th century set the conditions for U.S. policies regarding the Indians' assimilation or removal to reservations.

7. Explain how frontier violence was typically a result of conflict between local factions. Complete a list of Western gangs, individual "outlaws" and lawmen.

8. Compare and contrast the film, fiction or television portrayals of the period of Westward Expansion relative to the historical record.

5. Resources (located in "Resources" in Izio).

6. Required Texts:

Lester, C. Edwards, *Life and Achievements of Sam Houston; Hero and Statesman* (New York: John B. Alden, 1883).

Available online at Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=EZYEAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Sam+Houston+by+Lester&hl=en&ei>

Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1918).
ISBN-10:1844083748 and ISBN: 13: 978-1844083749

Available online at Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=1FRH1XA3UWgC&printsec=frontcover&dq=MyAntonia&hl=en&ei>

Mark Twain, *Roughing It*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1972. ISBN: 0-520-02018-9

Available online at Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=PHUiM-Sa3cUC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Roughing+It&hl=en&ei>

Andy Adams, *Log of a Cowboy*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1903).

ISBN: 0143039687

Available online at Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=V8uvLgijYkqC&printsec=frontcover&dq=log+of+a+Cowboy7hl=en&ei>

Cunningham, Eugene, *Triggerometry: A Gallery of Gunfighters* (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, 1934) and Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996). ISBN: 10-0806128372 and ISBN:13- 978-0806128375

Available online at Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=tDpsCbjlWIYC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Cunningham+Eugene&hl=en&ei>