

AMST 301 gm (10408R): America, the Frontier and the New West (Fall 2012)
M/W 10-11:50 (Lecture); THH 201
Office Hours: M/W, 12-1:30 PM, THH 402 E
Professor John Carlos Rowe

Texts (in course sequence):

Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860*. New York: HarperCollins/ Perennial, 1996 [1973]).

Howard Hawks, *Red River* (1948). Western. 133 mins.

Reginald Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny: The Origins of Racial Anglo-Saxonism* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986 [1981]).

John Rollin Ridge, *Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murieta* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1955 [1854]).

Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1987).

Iris Chang, *The Chinese in America: A Narrative History* (New York: Viking, 2003).

Maxine Hong Kingston, *China Men* (New York: Random House, 1980).

John Neihardt and Nick Black Elk, *Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988).

Paul Steckler and James Welch, *Killing Custer: The Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians*. 1994. Documentary.

John Sayles, *Lone Star*. Fiction film. 1996. 135 mins.

Anna Deveare Smith, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (New York: Anchor, 1994).

Course Description:

We will study what historians term “the New West,” by which they mean how the West has been shaped by many different historical forces and peoples. Reading “New West” scholars like Richard Slotkin, Reginald Horsman, Patricia Nelson Limerick, and Iris Chang, we will also read and view novels, plays, films, and visual art works that give us a solid understanding of how Native Americans, African Americans, Euroamericans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, women, and LBGTs have contributed to our lived realities in the West.

Course Format:

The course is lecture and discussion. Although the Schedule of Classes lists the lecture as 10 – 11:50 AM, M/W, the actual lecture will last only from 10-11:20 AM, in keeping with the standard one hour and twenty minute format for two-day per week classes at USC. **The one exception will be the midterm exam period, which will last from 10-11:50.**

The films, *Red River* and *Lone Star*, will not be screened in class, although portions may be shown in lecture and/or discussion for illustrative purposes. Both films are readily available online and should be rented or purchased for download/ screening by students. With enrollments expected at 200 in this course, no “reserve” system would be workable. Just like textbooks, these films are part of the course requirements and will be included in exam questions.

All assignments should be submitted to your discussion leader, not to the lecturer (Professor Rowe). All assignments will be graded by your discussion leader, who will also calculate and assign your final grade. Grade disputes are discussed below under “Grading.”

There will be brief times at the end of most lectures reserved for general questions, but the discussion section and office hours are the best places to ask questions about the reading material, the lectures, the assignments, or other course-related matters.

Course Requirements:

There are two short papers, and a midterm and a final.

Short Paper 1: The Myth of the West. Due: Week 6 (10/1-10/5) in Discussion Section (Exact Date Decided by Discussion Section Instructor). 3-5 pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins). Use Slotkin or Horsman to interpret a cultural work that contributed to the myth of the West as analyzed by Slotkin or Horsman. Hawks’s film, *Red River* is a good example and may be used, but your approach should differ from what was said in lecture and discussion section. **Discussion Section Instructors may focus this topic and do so differently in their respective sections.**

Short Paper 2: The New West. Due: Week 11 (11/5-11/9) in Discussion Section (Exact Date Decided by Discussion Section Instructor). 3-5 pages (same format as above). Write about one aspect of the “new” West as you understand it from Limerick, Kingston, Chang (or any of the previous assigned readings/ screenings) and apply it to a cultural work of your choosing. Ridge’s novel and Kingston’s fictional history are good examples, but again you should not repeat what has been said in lecture or discussion section. **Discussion Section Instructors may focus this topic and do so differently in their respective sections.**

Midterm Examination: Monday, Week 8, October 15, 10-11:50 AM, THH 201, in-lecture written exam. Please bring an exam book (blue book) available at the USC Bookstore. The exam will be essay only and consist of two essay questions, each involving internal choices of

examples, but there will not be a choice of questions. The exam will cover all the required materials up to that point in the course: Slotkin, Hawks, Horsman, and Ridge. Each question will take approximately 45 minutes to answer and be equally valued in determining your midterm exam grade. Discussion Section Instructors will contribute to the questions selected for the midterm examination. **Open book but no class notes; no electronic devices may be used during the exam. Students choosing ebooks for class use may use a Kindle, Nook, or iPad during the exam, but must first confirm that the Internet connection is turned off.**

Final Examination: Monday, December 17, 8-10 AM, THH 201. Please bring an examination (blue) book with you. The final examination will cover all the materials in the course. There will be one question asking you to draw on materials from the entire course and another question asking you to use only materials since the midterm examination (Limerick, Chang, Neihardt, Steckler/Welch, Sayles, and Smith). Both questions will be equally valued in determining your grade on the final examination. Each question will take about 45 minutes to answer. Discussion Section Instructors will contribute to the questions chosen for the final examination. **Open book but no class notes; same policy as above (midterm exam) regarding electronic devices.**

Grading:

Short Paper 1:	15 % of your final grade
Short Paper 2:	15 % of your final grade
Midterm Exam:	30 % of your final grade
Final Exam:	40 % of your final grade

There is no extra credit or special credit for attendance or participation. You are expected to attend all lectures and all meetings of the discussion section in which you are enrolled. We will not take attendance in the lecture, but discussion section instructors may do so. Repeated unexcused absences from either lecture or discussion section may result in you being dropped from the course.

Disputes: Disputed grades on assignments must first be discussed with the instructor who assigned the grade. In the rare cases in which this discussion is not adequate, then the student and instructor may meet with Professor Rowe. For that meeting, the assignments in question, comments, and grade must be made available to Professor Rowe in advance of the meeting.

Late Papers, Make-Up Exams, “Inc” Grades: Extensions and make-ups will be given only for documented medical emergencies or for conflicts with religious holidays. Make-up exams require us to draft new questions, so make-up exams will be given only under the conditions mentioned above and at a time/ day of our choosing. No “Inc” grades will be given for any reason other than extreme and documented medical emergency. Papers or exams not received by the due date or otherwise granted a formal extension will be recorded as: F.

Legal statements for USC syllabi :

Student Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. These strictures may extend to behaviors outside the classroom that are related to the course.

Students with Disabilities requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Academic Integrity. USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at:

<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Syllabus

Week 1:

8/27: Discussion of the course syllabus and requirements. Introduction: The Legacy of the Myth and Symbol School and the Promise of the “New West”

8/29: Read: Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration through Violence*, chs. 1 and 2 (3-56)

Week 2:

9/3: Labor Day Holiday. No class.

9/5: Read: Slotkin, chs. 4 (94-115) and 6 (146-179).

Week 3:

9/10: Read: Slotkin, chs. 11 (369-393) and 13 (466-516)

9/12: Read: Slotkin, ch. 14 (517-568)

Week 4:

9/17 and 9/19: Howard Hawks, *Red River* (1948). Be sure to screen this film at home before coming to class on 9/17.

Week 5:

9/24: Read: Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny*, chs. 5-6 (79-115)

9/26: Read: Horsman, chs. 9-10 (158-208)

Week 6:

Short Paper 1: Due in Discussion Section this Week.

10/1: Read: John Rollin Ridge, *Joaquín Murieta* (Introduction by Joseph Henry Jackson and opening pages of novel) and Horsman, ch. 12 (229-248)

10/3: Read: Ridge (25 pp. or so)

Week 7:

10/8: Read: Ridge (another 25 pp. or so)

10/10: Read: Ridge (finish the novel).

Week 8:

10/15: Midterm Examination in Lecture, THH 201, 10-11:50 AM (Slotkin, Hawks, Horsman, Ridge)

10/17: Read: Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest*, Introduction (17-34) and ch. 1 (35-54)

Week 9:

10/22: Read: Limerick, ch. 2 (55-77) and ch. 6 (179-221)

10/24: Read: Limerick, ch. 8 (259-292)

Week 10:

10/29: Read: Maxine Hong Kingston, *Chinamen* (about 75 pp.) and Iris Chang, *The Chinese in America*, chs. 1 (1-19) and 9 (130-156)

10/31: Read: Kingston (another 75 pp.) and Chang, ch. 2 (20-28).

Week 11:

Short Paper 2 due in discussion section this week

11/5: Read: Kingston (another 75 pp.) and Chang, ch. 4 (38-52)

11/7: Read: Kingston (rest of book) and Chang, ch. 5 (53-64)

Week 12:

11/12: Read: Neihardt and Black Elk, *Black Elk Speaks* (about one third)

11/14: Read: *Black Elk Speaks* (another third)

Week 13:

11/19: Read: *Black Elk Speaks* (finish the book); Paul Steckler and James Welch, *Killing Custer*, screened in lecture.

11/21-24: Thanksgiving Recess. No W. class. Screen *Lone Star* during Thanksgiving Recess?

Week 14:

11/26 and 28: John Sayles, *Lone Star*. Please be sure to screen the film at home before coming to class on 11/26.

Week 15:

12/3: Read: Anna Deavere Smith, *Twilight* (about first half)

12/5: Read: Anna Deavere Smith, *Twilight* (finish the book)

Final Examination: Monday, 12/17, 8-10 AM, THH 201 (Lecture classroom)