WESTERN AMERICAN LITERATURE
TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE
ENGLISH 668

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Office: LA 233
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 a.m., and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS
Royce, A Frontier Lady
Wister, The Virginian
Stewart, Letters of a Woman Homesteader
Cather, My Antonia
Greenwood, We Sagebrush Folks
Schaeffer, Shane
Abbey, Desert Solitaire
Gloss, The Jump-Off Creek
Blew, All But the Waltz
Alexie, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
Proulx, Brokeback Mountain, Story to Screenplay

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course, we will read and discuss twentieth-century works with a focus on western American literature. Using recent works of literary criticism, both in the areas of western criticism and ecocriticism, we will talk about how the literary works construct, analyze, and interpret the West for their readers and how this is reflected in our cultural understanding of the West as a real and imagined place.

ASSIGNMENTS
Annotated Bibliography 25 percent
Presentation 15 percent
Short Paper 20 percent
Prospectus & Seminar Paper 40 percent

CLASS SCHEDULE
Week One
January 10—Course Introduction

Week Two
January 17—Readings in western criticism
Week Three  
  January 24—A Frontier Lady (written 1880s/first published 1932)

Week Four  
  January 31—The Virginian (1902)

Week Five  
  February 7—The Virginian

Week Six  
  February 14—Letters of a Woman Homesteader (1914)

Week Seven  
  February 21—My Antonia (1918)

Week Eight  
  February 28—We Sagebrush Folks (1934)

Week Nine  
  March 7—We Sagebrush Folks

Week Ten—Spring Break

Week Eleven  
  March 21—Shane (1949)

Week Twelve  
  March 28—Desert Solitaire (1968)

Week Thirteen  
  April 4—The Jump-Off Creek (1989)

Week Fourteen  
  April 11—All But the Waltz (1991)

Week Fifteen  
  April 18—The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (1993)

Week Sixteen  
  April 25—Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Week Seventeen  
  May 2—Brokeback Mountain

Week Eighteen: Finals week; Final paper due—May 9
Policies

Message from ADA Disabilities & Resource Center
Our program is committed to helping all students achieve their potential. If you have a disability or think you have a disability (physical, learning disability, hearing, vision, psychiatric), which may need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the ADA Disabilities & Resource Center in Graveley Hall, Room 123, 282-3599.

Decorum Policy
Because university course work requires focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Department of English and Philosophy expects the classroom to be a place of courteous interaction. The demonstration of mutual respect between teachers and students includes arriving and leaving class at the designated times, participating in classroom activities, and adapting to new and varied learning styles and tasks. Academic communication requires that all of us listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not), state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Classroom standards for academic courtesy apply to group work and student-teacher conferences as well.

Attendance
Attendance is crucial to a graduate seminar, and I expect everyone to attend every class. However, if circumstances arise that would cause you to miss a class, please do let me know what’s going on.