

En 360, Landscape & Gender in Western Fiction & Film  
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Spring 2010  
Off. Hours: Tues-Thurs---3:45-4:30  
Fri--10:30-12; Other times by Appt.

Required Texts:

Greg Lyons—*Lit of the American West (LAW)*  
Jack Schaefer---*Shane*  
Elinore Stewart---*Letters from a Woman Homesteader*  
Marilyn Robinson---*Housekeeping*  
James Welch---*Winter in the Blood*

Required Films: **must be seen prior to the class in which they will be discussed.** FILMS are available on reserve shelf in the Arnold Bernhard Library. See films before the following dates:

1/28: *THE WESTERN* (#2216) AND *HELL'S HINGES* (#960) (1 hour each)  
2/4: *STAGECOACH* (#312)  
2/18: *SHANE* (#1508)  
2/25: *HIGH NOON* (#2062)  
3/23: *HEARTLAND* (#3420)  
4/8: *THE WILD BUNCH*  
4/15: *McCABE AND MRS. MILLER* (#325)  
4/29: *UNFORGIVEN* (#1781)

PROCEDURES: **ALL ITEMS ARE DUE ON THE DATE LISTED. Be sure to read the brief introduction to each period and writer in LAW. REMINDER--ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! Unexcused absence will result in forced withdrawal or a lower grade. BRING TEXT WE ARE USING TO CLASS!!! N. B.: be sure to read background and biographical info on each author /period in *Literature of American West* in addition to all the handouts---this info will be on the tests.**

SCHEDULE OF READING: **ALL ITEMS ARE DUE ON THE DATE LISTED**

1st Week—1/19: Introduction and Overview. Early versions of America and the West.  
Conron--“Cultivation of the Promised Land” (handout).

1/21: Intro (xi-xii) and Chap. 1 of *LAW*, including Crevecoeur---“What is an American?” pp. 1-12. Respond to questions in *LAW*, p. 12; put responses in your Journal.  
Gilpin--”Manifest Destiny” and “The West as Mythical Topography” (handouts)---

2ndWk--1/26: Discuss Frederick Jackson Turner---“The Significance of the Frontier” (12-19)---  
and Lewis & Clark (19-31)--- . Questions on pp, 18-19 in Journal. Discuss  
“How to Watch a Film,” 471-79.

1/28: See *HELL'S HINGES* (W. S. Hart, 1917) **before class**--Good and Evil in the Old West  
(Interpret in Journals and bring to Journals to class—note role of women.) Discuss *Hell's Hinges* in the context of Puritanism and the westward movement; be prepared to articulate the interpretation you wrote in your Journals. Rev. Henley--- Faith (his sister)--  
Blaze--- Silk--- Dolly--- Symbolism--

3rd Wk—2/2: Finish *Hell's Hinges* and discuss video *The Western*. **See video before class.**

Haycox--"Stage to Lordsburg"(Reserve)----  
least one of the questions on p. 42 of *LAW*.

Make a Journal entry on at

2/4: **See *Stagecoach* (Ford, 1939) before class. Thesis and points of support for 1st paper due**---

Frame a thesis around one of the questions on p. 43 and follow the pattern established by Alberti's Introductory paragraph on "Painting." Discuss film. Males (on the Stage)---  
Landscape (analyze the journey)--- Ringo--- Dallas---  
Other women--- Tonto/Lordsburg--- Cavalry/ Nat. Amer--  
the law/outlaws-

4th Wk—2/9: **1<sup>st</sup> Paper due---on *Stagecoach***. Finish disc of *Stagecoach* and discuss Bret Harte, "Outcasts of Poker Flat" (31-44)---

2/11: **1st Test. All material thus far.**

5th Wk—2/16: Return 1<sup>st</sup> papers—**to be corrected, revised, and returned on 2/23**. Discuss: Chap 2

"Crossing Frontiers" (45-50), Chap 3 "Working the Land" (89-95), and Chap 4 "Spiritual Landscapes" (185-92)--- Begin Pt. Two—"Challenges to a Western Mythology," Chap. 5 "Satires and Entertainments" (211-17)---  
Thomas Schatz—"The Western" and "Hollywood Genres" (270-96)---

2/18: Begin *Shane* (Schaefer). Discuss book first then the film. **See *Shane* (George Stevens, 1953) before class.** Shane--- Marian---

Joe--- Bob/Joey---  
Fletcher/Ryker brothers--- Homesteaders-  
Wilson--- Imagery & Symbols---

6th Wk—2/23: **1st papers returned to me, corrected & revised.** Finish discussing *Shane*

Differences between film and book---  
Discuss Cunningham's "The Tin Star" (reserve)---

2/25: **See *High Noon* (Zinneman, 1952) before class** and discuss in class:

Marshall Kane--- community--- Judge/ deputy/former Marshall-  
Amy--- Mrs. Ramirez--- Symbolism---

7th Wk--3/2: Influence of Realism and Naturalism. Crane--"The Blue Hotel" (227-55) (questions on p. 254 in Journal)---

3/4: "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" (Reserve)--- Questions on pp. 296-98 in Journal. Women and the West: Discuss "Changing Images of Women in Western Film" by C. Foote (handout) & Chap. 6—"Women in the West" (299-305)---

### **Spring Break---Mar 7--14**

8th Wk—3/16: Angeline Mitchell Brown—"Diary of a School Teacher on the Arizona Frontier" (1881) (pp. 305-15)--- (Questions on p. 314 in Journal);  
and Linda Hasselstrom's poems (344-50)--- (Questions on p. 349 in Journal)

3/18: Begin--- E. Stewart--*Letters from a Woman Homesteader*.

Eleanor—  
women---

Mr. Stewart—  
Zeb Pike—

Landscape—  
Differences bet. film & book-

9th Wk.—3/23: See *Heartland* (Richard Pearce, 1979) before class. Discuss film and book.

3/25: Finish discussing *Letters from a Woman Homesteader* and the film. Begin the Modern West: Disillusionment and Loss of Innocence (irony, existentialism, and post modernism).

10th Wk. 3/30: The Revisionist Western (undermining the myth): Begin *Winter in the Blood* (1976)-  
--James Welch. Narrator--                      Lame Bull--                      Teresa--  
First Raise/Mose--                      Grandmother/ Wife---                      Landscape--  
Irony & Revisionism---                      Yellow Calf--

4/1: Continue *Winter in the Blood*

11th Wk.—4/6: Finish *Winter in the Blood*. Introduce Peckinpah

4/8: See *The Wild Bunch* before class (1969). Pike---                      Deke Thornton--  
Harrigan & railroad---                      Dutch & Angel—                      Gorches, & Sikes--  
The 3 villages---                      Mexican General & entourage---                      The women---  
Landscape---                      themes---

12th Wk.--4/13: **DUE--Thesis and Pts of support for FINAL PAPER**—Analyze one of the revisionist fictions and/or films we've discussed this semester. Finish discussing *The Wild Bunch* and begin *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*. Screening---See *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* (Altman, 1971) before class. Respond to questions on pp. 296-97 in *LAW*.

4/15: Discuss film. McCabe--                      Mrs. Miller---                      other women---  
killers---                      cowboy & Lawyer Samuels---  
company vs. community---                      I                      landscape (Kowalewski's essay)---

13th Wk.--4/20: **FINAL PAPER DUE.** Finish McCabe. Begin Robinson's *Housekeeping*. Edmund--  
Sylvia—                      (aunts and two other daughters)--                      Lucy---  
Ruth---                      Sylvie---                      Community---  
Landscape (essay by Ann Van Dyke)—

4/22: *Housekeeping*

14th Wk.—4/27: Finish *Housekeeping* and introduce Eastwood. **JOURNALS DUE.**

4/29: Screening---*Unforgiven* (Eastwood, 1993) before class. Discuss *Unforgiven*. Wm.  
Munny---                      the Schofield Kid---                      Ned---                      women---  
Sheriff Little Bill Daggett---                      Beauchamp (dime novelist)---  
English Bob("Duc of Death")---                      my essay---

**FINAL EXAM—1st Wk of May . All material of semester, including texts, DVDs, and handouts.**

