SYLLABUS
ENG 468/568
Literature of the American West

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Office hours: TTh 4:00-5:00
and by appointment

Specific course objectives:
1. The texts for this course are as follows:
   c. Mark Twain, *Roughing It* (Signet)
   d. Owen Wister, *The Virginian* (Pocket Books)
   e. D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (New Mexico)
   g. Walter Van Tilburg Clark, *The Ox-Bow Incident* (Random House)
   h. Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (Warner)
   i. Additional materials available on e-reserve.

2. You will be able to identify and discuss significant works of western American literature.

3. You will write two documented papers on the following topics:
   a. the evolution of the formulaic western novel in the 19th century (due October 6).
   b. innovations in the western formula in the 20th century (due December 8).

Each of these papers should be between 1500 and 2000 words in length and should demonstrate
the ability to use standard grammar and spelling and proper forms of documentation. Papers will
be accepted, albeit with penalty in grade, after the due dates. Graduate students will also write
two papers, one of them 2000-2500 words in length and the other around 4000 words in length.
The latter paper will be summarized and discussed at the appropriate class meeting.

4. You will contribute to the course through attendance and regular participation in class
discussion. To facilitate discussion, class meetings should not be recorded.

Evaluation:

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<td>2 examinations</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>2 papers</td>
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\[A=360+ \quad B=359-320 \quad C=319-28 \quad D=279-240 \quad F=below \ 240\]

Final grades will not be fractionalized.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Cooper: <em>The Prairie</em></td>
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| 8 | Cooper: *The Prairie* (continued)  
Bret Harte: "The Luck of Roaring Camp," "Tennessee's Partner," and "Plain Language from Truthful James" |
| 15 | Ridge: *Joaquin Murieta* |
| 22 | Twain: *Roughing It* |
| 29 | Twain: *Roughing It* (continued)  
Mary Hallock Foote: "Maverick" |
| Oct 6 | Wister: *The Virginian*  
First paper due |
| 13 | Fall break |
| 20 | Film excerpts: *The Virginian*  
Mid-term exam |
| 27 | McNickle: *The Surrounded*  
Poetry and fiction by Sherman Alexie: "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven," "Defending Walt Whitman" |
| Nov 3 | Sui Sin Far: "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"  
Cather: *My Ántonia* |
| 10 | Cather: *My Ántonia*  
Crane: "The Blue Hotel" and "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky"  
Clark: *The Ox-Bow Incident* |
| 17 | Clark: *The Ox-Bow Incident* (continued) + film excerpts |
| 24 | Thanksgiving holiday |
| Dec 1 | Anaya: *Bless Me, Ultima* |
| 8 | Anaya: *Bless Me, Ultima* (continued)  
Anaya: "Walt Whitman Strides the Llanos of New Mexico"  
Second paper due |
| 15 | Final examination (7:45-9:45 pm) |
General Bibliography

* = on reserve


*Robinson, Forrest G. Having It Both Ways: Self-Subversion in Western Popular Classics.*
*Western American Literature.* 1966 to the present.

**James Fenimore Cooper: A Selected Bibliography**


Suderman, Elmer F. “Cooper’s Sense of Place in *The Prairie*,” *North Dakota Quarterly*, 55 (Winter 1987), 159-64.


**Bret Harte: A Selected Bibliography**


John Rollin Ridge: A Selected Bibliography


Merish, Lori. “Print, Cultural Memory, and John Rollin Ridge’s The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta, the Celebrated California Bandit,” Arizona Quarterly, 59 (Winter 2003), 453-78.


Mark Twain: A Selected Bibliography


Beidler, Philip D. “Realistic Style and the Problem of Contest in The Innocents Abroad and Roughing It,” American Literature, 52 (March 1980), 33-49.


Harris, Helen L. “Mark Twain’s Response to the Native American,” American Literature, 46 (January 1975), 495-505.

Hobbs, Michael. “Mark Twain’s Infernal Transcendentalism: The Lake Episodes in Roughing It,” American Literary Realism, 26 (Fall 1993), 13-25.


Messent, Peter. “‘It’s a Great Country, Ma’: Blind Leads and Shifting Ground: The West in
Mark Twain’s *Roughing It,* *Canadian Review of American Studies,* 26 (Winter 1996), 49-77.


Mary Hallock Foote: A Selected Bibliography


Gruber, Laura Katherine. “‘The Naturalistic Impulse’: Limitations of Gender and Landscape in Mary Hallock Foote’s Idaho Stories,” *Western American Literature,* 38 (Winter 2004), 353-73.


Owen Wister: A Selected Bibliography


Nesbitt, John D. “Owen Wister’s Achievement in Literary Tradition,” *Western American Literature,* 18 (Fall 1983), 199-208.


Reading *The Virginian in the New West,* ed. Melody Graulich and Stephen Tatum. Lincoln:
D’Arcy McNickle: A Selected Bibliography


Hoefel, Roseanne. “Gendered Cartography: Mapping the Mind of Female Characters in D’Arcy McNickle’s The Surrounded,” Studies in American Indian Literatures, 10 (Spring 1998), 45-64.


Sui Sin Far: A Selected Bibliography


Willa Cather: A Selected Bibliography


McElhiney, Annette Bennington. “Willa Cather’s Use of a Tripartite Narrative Point of View in My Ántonia,” *CEA Critic*, 56 (Fall 1993), 65-76.


Panniccia Carden, Mary. “Creative Fertility and the National Romance in Willa Cather’s *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*,” *Modern Fiction Studies*, 45 (Summer 1999), 275-302.


Shaw, Patrick W. *My Ántonia: Emergence and Authorial Revelations,* *American Literature*, 56
Stephen Crane: A Selected Bibliography


Walter Van Tilburg Clark: A Selected Bibliography


Peterson, Levi S. "Tragedy and Western American Literature," Western American Literature, 6 (1972), 243-49.


Rudolfo Anaya: A Selected Bibliography


"Myth as the Cognitive Process of Popular Culture in Rudolfo Anaya's Bless Me, Ultima: The Dialectics of Knowledge," Hispania, 68 (September 1985), 496-501.


Sherman Alexie: A Selected Bibliography


DeNuccio, Jerome. “Slow Dancing with Skeletons: Sherman Alexie’s The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven,” Critique, 44 (Fall 2002), 86-96.


McGrath, Jacqueline L. “‘The Same Damn Stories’: Exploring a Variation on Tradition in Sherman Alexie’s The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven,” Southern Folklore, 57 (2000), 94-105.
