

English 7700-1 Seminar in American Studies Fall 2003

T/Th 12:25-1:45 p.m. LNCO 3820

Professor: Stephen Tatum LNCO 3413

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Course Description: This course will focus on the American West of the imagination at the turn of the twentieth century in the United States. We will be reading extensively and intensively in a range of texts: historiography, fiction, non-fiction, art and art history, folklore, and cultural performances such as Wild West Shows. The first section of the course readings and discussions will examine how dominant culture writers, artists, and performers updated and revised the Myth of the Frontier (Slotkin) as a strategic response to then contemporary concerns and anxieties associated with a modernizing and urbanizing industrial nation. In this regard, we will better understand the linkages between the region and the nation state (i.e., the West as America syndrome). We will then move to consider alternative or oppositional visions of the American West emerged in dialectical interaction with the dominant myth-ideological production of the region's landscape and history. Along the way we will devote considerable attention to critical interpretations of the primary reading and viewing material so as to better understand the production and reception of the imagined West. Put simply, the course will be an exercise in interdisciplinary cultural history, with attention paid to gender issues and representations of the body in space/place, to the role of nostalgia in historical memory, and to re-definitions of the key term "frontier."

Required Texts:Turner, The Frontier in American HistoryWister, The VirginianAnderson, Frederic Remington: The Color of NightAustin, The Land of Little RainParedes, With His Pistol in His HandReddin, Wild West ShowsZitkala-Sa, American Indian Stories

Readings on Reserve at the Marriott Library

Requirements:

1. Reading and Class Preparation
 2. Oral Report on "Secondary" Critical Resource (see readings below marked by *)
 3. Oral Response to another's Oral Report
 4. 5-7 page analysis/interpretive paper based on the secondary critical resource on which you give your oral report. (due within a week of delivering your oral presentation)
 5. 5 page bibliographical essay/prospectus relating to final term paper
 6. 15-20 page term paper on work(s)/author(s)/theme(s) and issue(s) covered or ignored in our discussions.
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Reading/Discussion Schedule: *Denotes Reading on Reserve

August 21: Introduction to the Course

August 26: **Turner**, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History”;
“The Problem of the West”

August 28: **Turner**, “Dominant Forces in Western Life”
“Pioneer Ideals and the State University”
“The West and American Ideals”

September 2: Slotkin, from The Fatal Environment: “Myth and Historical Memory”;
“The Frontier Myth as a Theory of Development”*

September 4: Handley, from Marriage, Violence, and the Nation in the Am. Literary West:

“Turner’s Rhetorical Frontier”*

Kolodny, “Letting Go Our Grand Obsessions: Toward a New Literary History of the Frontier”*

September 9: Anderson, from Frederic Remington: The Color of Night:
“Dark Disquiet: Remington’s Late Nocturnes”
Kaplan, “Black and Blue on San Juan Hill”*
Artwork: **Remington**, “The Charge of the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill”

September 11: Dippie, “The Moving Finger Writes: Western Art and the Dynamics of Change”*

Tompkins, “At the Buffalo Bill Museum”*

September 16: Frederic Remington: The Color of Night
Essay by William Sharpe*

September 18: Frederic Remington: The Color of Night
Essay by Alexander Nemerov*

September 23: Tatum, presentation on Remington’s “Coming to the Call,” “The Hunter’s Supper” And “The Outlier”
Reading: To Be Announced

September 25: **Wister**, The Virginian
Campbell, “Wister’s Retreat from Hybridity”*

September 30: **Wister**, The Virginian
Tuttle, “Indigenous Whiteness and Wister’s Invisible Indians”*
(in Graulich and Tatum, Reading the Virginian in the New West)
DUE: 5 Page Bibliographical Essay/Prospectus for Term Paper

October 2: Fall Term Mini-Break/ NO CLASS

- October 7: **Wister**, The Virginian
Lamont, “The Bovine Object of Ideology”*
- October 9: NO CLASS (I’ll be out of town for the Western History Assoc. conference)
- October 14: **Reddin**, from Wild West Shows: “Introduction” plus chapter 3
White, essay from The Frontier in Am. Culture*
- October 16: **Reddin**, chapters 4 and 5 from Wild West Shows
Slotkin, “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West and the Mythologization of the
American Empire”*
- October 21: **Reddin**, chapters 6 and 7 plus “Conclusion” to Wild West Shows
- October 23: Discussion of **video recording “Out West”**
Brownlow, The War, the West, the Wilderness* (**chapter on The West**)
- October 28: Discussion of videorecording of **The Great Train Robbery** (1903)
Reading to be announced
- October 30: NO CLASS (I’ll be out of town for the Western Literature Assoc.
conference)
- November 4: **Austin**, The Land of Little Rain
Hoyer, from Dancing Ghosts*
- November 6: **Austin**, The Land of Little Rain
Ammons, from Conflicting Stories*
- November 11: **Paredes**, With His Pistol in His Hand
Limon, from Dancing with the Devil*
- November 13: **Paredes**, With His Pistol in His Hand
Saldivar, from Border Matters*
- November 18: **Paredes**, finish With His Pistol in His Hand
- November 20: **Zitkala-Sa**, American Indian Stories:
“Impressions of an Indian Childhood”
“The School Days of an Indian Girl”
Hafen, “Zitkala-Sa” in Hoxie, ed. Encyclopedia of
American Indians*
Velikova, “Troping in Zitkala-Sa’s Autobiographical Writings”*
- November 25: **Zitkala-Sa**: “The Great Spirit”; “A Warrior’s Daughter”; “The Soft-

hearted Sioux”; “The Widespread Enigma of Blue-Star Woman”;
 “America’s Indian Problem”

November 27: Thanksgiving break/ NO CLASS

December 2/4: Individual Conferences about Final Term Paper (To be Arranged)

December 10: 10:30 a.m. **Final Meeting/Presentation of Term Papers**

Additional Information from Dept. of Homeland Security:

the Americans with Disabilities Act information (as it is worded in this email) on your syllabus. **The American with Disabilities Act** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the instructor or teaching assistant of this course at the beginning of the semester to discuss any necessary accommodations. 2. We strongly suggest that you include the University's drop/withdrawal policy on your syllabus. Please reference the wording below. **Drop/Withdrawal Policy** Classes dropped by the 10th calendar day of the semester are deleted from students' records and no tuition is charged. Students may withdraw from a full term course without the instructor or dean's permission until the midpoint of the semester as published on the academic calendar. To withdraw, students must log into the Campus Information System. A "W" grade will be recorded on students' academic record. After the withdrawal deadline, students may petition for withdrawal if they have a nonacademic emergency. Students must submit a petition and supporting documentation to the office of the dean of their academic college. Undeclared, nonmatriculated and premajor students apply to the University College. Students must submit the petition to the appropriate dean's office by the last day of regular course instruction preceding the final exam period. Following is the link to the University's Drop/Withdrawal Policy to learn more: <http://www.acs.utah.edu/sched/handbook/wddeadlines.htm> 3. We strongly suggest that you include the information from the student code on plagiarism on your syllabus if you assign writing in your class. **Plagiarism** "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression (Student Code, p. 3). 4. We are providing information about the new tuition policy for your information. Students have been informed about this policy, so use your own discretion to determine if you would like to include it as an informational item on your syllabus or to remind students orally this first week of classes. **New Tuition Policy** Beginning Fall 2003, undergraduate students who do not pay tuition by the due date, September 5, will have their classes dropped and not be able to reinstate them. Students are responsible for paying tuition for Fall Semester by September 5, 2003. This includes tuition for term length, first half, second half, and miscellaneous session classes. All unpaid account balances after the due date will be assessed a 20% late fee (not to exceed \$60). Undergraduate students who fail to pay tuition by September 5 will have their classes cancelled. This means that the classes you have registered for will be deleted from your academic record. Checks returned for insufficient funds will also result in class cancellation. Students who have classes deleted due to non-payment of tuition may not reinstate cancelled classes or use late add forms to add classes. Second session classes, however, may be

added via the Web from September 18 - October 27, 2003. Following is the link to the Tuition Bill and Pa