

Geography 106-Section 02 MW 4:00 – 5:15 Butte Hall 101
Geography 106-Section 04 TTH 3:30 - 4:45 Butte Hall 103
Instructor: Steve Stewart
eMAIL: SStewart1@CSUChico.edu

The American West

Office: Butte 508
Phone: 898-6089
Hours: M 8:00–10:00
TTH 9:15 – 10:45

SYLLABUS

[HTTP://wizard.csuchico.edu/wizardsite.net/index](http://wizard.csuchico.edu/wizardsite.net/index)

Course Description

This course is a survey of the development of the American West from pre-Columbian times to the present. An understanding of this unique landscape necessitates consideration of the conflict between various groups of people for control and use of land and resources. It also requires discussions of resource allocation issues, conflicts of different political and economic systems, and the exploitation of certain cultural groups by others. It is an approved General Education course for area D-2 (Political and Economic Institutions)

Texts

1. Class Packet #581 available for sale at Mr. Kopy located at 1st and Main Streets Downtown Chico.
2. “*The American West, A new Interpretive History*” by Robert Hine & John Mack Faracher.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to help students:

1. Develop a geographic understanding of the American West, including;
 - a. The physical processes that shape the patterns on the earth’s surface,
 - b. How these physical processes affect human cultures.
 - c. How various cultures manage and modify the physical environment,
 - d. The patterns of human migration and settlement throughout the region.
2. Develop the ability to think, speak, and write critically.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for all class materials and should be prepared to discuss readings on the assigned dates. Specific requirements include:

1. One midterm exam and one final exam. Exam questions will be taken from the assigned readings, class exercises, and class lectures.
2. Numerous map quizzes and exercises throughout the semester.
3. One written ‘Field Trip’ assignment.

Students' Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you miss class or leave early because of other important commitments, you are still responsible for materials presented in lecture.

Eating, reading outside materials, or carrying on conversations not relevant to classroom discussions are prohibited.

Phones, PDAs, and other personal digital devices are prohibited, even on vibrate. Turn it off and live in the moment. The use of digital devices during class time will result in removal from class. ANY phone use, noise, vibration during an exam or quiz will result in an 'F' being awarded.

Students are expected to respect one another and the diversity of opinion, viewpoint, experience, and interpretation present in a university classroom.

Students should take careful, complete notes; exams will be taken in large part from lecture materials and classroom discussions.

Instructor's Responsibilities

It is the instructor's responsibility to be organized, informative, and enthusiastic about the course material. The instructor will be available during office hours to answer questions about course materials, assignments, or exams.

As a guide to the learning process, the instructor will make every effort to accommodate different learning styles by using various methods of instruction – including traditional lecture, class discussion, hands-on activities, field work, and film and video when available.

It is the instructor's responsibility to ensure that classroom decorum is maintained. Any behavior that disrupts the learning process will be dealt with in a prompt manner and may lead to the student(s) being dropped from the class. The procedure for removal from the classroom is as follows.

1. First offence – a verbal admonishment will be given to the disruptive student.
2. Second offence – temporary removal from class and/or an office visit. Seating assignment will be given at this point.
3. Third offense – permanent removal from class. An 'F' will be awarded for the class.

Grading Policy

No makeup work will be permitted, except in the case of a bona-fide and documented illness or emergency. Assignments are due on the dates specified by the instructor.

Note: No late work will be accepted

In accordance with university literacy requirements, spelling, grammar, and composition will be taken into account when grading written assignments.

Note: Work submitted with more than four grammatical or spelling errors are unacceptable. No resubmitted work will be accepted. Please proof read your work.*

* Clearly, you can pick out errors in the work of others. Be certain that your papers do not contain errors like those illustrated in the sentence above. Papers that do not adhere to the university standards can not earn a grade better than a D.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be offered at various times during the course of the semester depending upon the availability of guest speakers. Extra credit is offered to assist diligent students; therefore, all extra credit points will be forfeited for those students who have missed more than three regular assignments. No extra credit will be accepted or offered during the final two weeks of the semester.

- You may attend two visiting lecturer seminars during the course of the semester for extra credit in the course. After attending, type a short 1 page summary of what was said and what you thought about it.
- During the course of the semester you may read one book on the American West from the list provided. Those students who choose to read a book will have an additional test after the final on the chosen book.

Grading Policy

This is a general outline of points for the course. The instructor will modify these point totals slightly during the course of the semester.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Midterm Exam (1)	100
Final Exam (1)	100
Exercises (3 @ 10 points)	30
Map Quizzes (3 @ 15 points)	45
Reading Quizzes (4 @ 25 points)	100
Paragraph and Photograph	5
Field Trip Assignment	100
Approximate Total Points	480

Grade Scale: To compute the final letter grade, students need to determine what percentage of points they received relative to the total possible amount of points.

100-94% =	A
93-90% =	A-
89-87% =	B+
86-84% =	B
83-80% =	B-
79-77% =	C+
76-74% =	C
73-70% =	C-
69-60% =	D

59% and below earns the student a "F."

Additionally, an "F" will be awarded in any instance of cheating or plagiarism on any assignment, regardless of the number of points earned in the course.

Tentative Assignment Schedule:*

DATES	TOPIC	EXERCISE or HOMEWORK <i>READING ASSIGNMENT</i> <u>TEST or QUIZ</u> Video or Film**
WEEK ONE	411 Five Themes	Mental Map Exercise Photo Flashcard <i>Chapters 1 & 2</i>
WEEK TWO	The Physical West FURLOUGH DAY (MONDAY)	<u>Map Quiz #1</u> <i>Chapter 3- The Struggle of Empires</i>
WEEK THREE	The Land of the West LABOR DAY (MONDAY) FURLOUGH DAY (TUESDAY)	<i>Chapter 4 –The land and it’s Markers</i> Lewis and Clark (film)
WEEK FOUR	The Explored West	<u>Map Quiz #2</u> <u>Reading Quiz #1 Chapters 1 - 5</u> <i>Chapter 5 – The Fur Trade</i> <i>Packet Articles- Mountain Men and the fur trade</i>
WEEK FIVE	The Movement West FURLOUGH DAY (MONDAY)	<i>Chapter 6 – From Texas to Oregon</i>
WEEK SIX	The Native West	The West (Film) <i>Chapter 7- War and Destiny</i>
WEEK SEVEN	The Contested West NACIS Conference (Wednesday & Thursday)	<u>Reading Quiz #2 – Chapters 6 & 7</u> <u>Map Quiz #3</u>
WEEK EIGHT	The Tested West FURLOUGH DAY (THURSDAY)	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>
WEEK NINE	The Exploited West	The West – “Gold, Greed and Genocide” (film) <i>Packet - Mining</i> <i>Chapter 8 – Mining Frontiers</i>
WEEK TEN	The Resourceful West FURLOUGH DAY (THURSDAY)	<i>Chapter 9 – The Power of the Road</i>
WEEK ELEVEN	The Public West FURLOUGH DAY (MONDAY)	<u>Reading Quiz #3 – Chapters 8 & 9</u> <i>Chapter10 – Open Range</i> <i>Chapter 11 – Safety Valve</i>
WEEK TWELVE	The Ugly West VETERANS DAY (WEDNESDAY) FURLOUGH DAY (THURSDAY)	<u>The Field Trip Project</u> <i>Chapter14- Plunder and Preservation</i> <i>Packet – Environmental Regulation</i>
WEEK THIRTEEN	The Hydraulic West	Map Exercise – Water Projects <u>Reading Quiz #4 – Chapters 10, 11 & 14</u> Cadillac Desert (film) <i>Packet – Water Issues</i>
WEEK FOURTEEN	The Relaxing West	Thanksgiving Break

WEEK FIFTEEN	The New West	<i>Packet – The New West</i> <i>Packet – Public Lands Recreation</i> Map Exercise - CAMP
WEEK SIXTEEN	The Stereotypical West FURLOUGH DAY (TUESDAY)	Classic Western <i>Chapter 15 – The Myth of the West</i>
WEEK SEVENTEEN FINALS	The Finished West	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>

* The instructor reserves the right to alter this outline as circumstances dictate

** Not all of the films and videos will be shown in class; however, students might chose to view these documentaries to facilitate learning the material presented in the lectures and assigned readings

The Reading List:

- **Water Development** - *Cadillac Desert* by Marc Reisner
- **Land Use** - *Measuring America: How America was Shaped by the Greatest Land Sale in History* by Andro Linklater
- **Western Expansion** - *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose
- **Environmental** – *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abby
- **Mining** – *The War of the Copper Kings* by C. B. Glasscock

Additional Resources:

The Well Runneth Dry (film)
 Power of Water: The Dammed Columbia (film)
 The West Video 1
 The West Video 2 (2787-3069)
 Five Women of the West (film)
 The West Video 3, 5, & 8
 Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area (film)
 Land of Little Rain (film)
 The West: Video 2 (3069-3431)
 The West: Video 4 (2425-3059)
 The West: Video 7 (4653-4940)