**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**Plainview, Winter 2018**

**School of Behavioral and Social Sciences**

***Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning, and service to God and humankind.***

**HIST 5350 - United States West**

**Instructor**: Dr. Kevin Z. Sweeney; Office Gates Hall Room 302

**Office Hours**: MF 8:00-11:00, TR 8:00-9:00, W 9:00-11:00. Gates Hall Room 302.

**Contact Information**: Work Phone 806.291.1180  **Email**: sweeneyk@wbu.edu

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**Catalog Description**: HIST 5333 will introduce students to the main theoretical currents of the history of the US West and look at the west as a frontier; as a region of agriculture, of aridity, of Native Americans, of the Desert Southwest; and also explore gender in the West, violence in the West, and the modern West.

**Prerequisite for this course**

**Required Book**:

Robert Hine and John Mack Faragher, The American West: A New Interpretive History.

**Course Outline:**

The Classic Scholars

Native Americans

The West as a Frontier

Desert Southwest

Agriculture

Violence

Gender

Region of Aridity

The Modern West

**Course requirements: Students will prepare eight book reviews, will compose four essays, will respond to ten text Book prompts, and will take a final essay exam.**

Book Reviews: Refer to the Book Review guidelines attached to this syllabus. Each book review should be between 3 and 4 pages in length, and will be worth 100 points each for a total of 500 points. Refer to the Schedule of Topics and Assignments in this syllabus for the due dates.

Essays: Four essays responding to questions posted in the Essay folder, each worth 50 points. Refer to the Schedule of Topics and Assignments in this syllabus for the due dates. Essay guidelines are posted on Blackboard

Responses: Ten Responses to questions covering information in the text book, each worth 20 points are to be posted on the Discussion Board. Refer to the Schedule of Topics and Assignments in this syllabus for the due dates. Each Wednesday of the week post responses to the instructor’s prompt (5 pts), create your own question in a thread (10 pts), and post a response to another person’s thread by Sunday 11:59 PM (5 pts).

**Course outcome competencies**: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the main scholars and their arguments for the following categories of the History of the US West:

The West as a process or place

Native Americans

The West as a Frontier

Desert Southwest

Agricultural History

The West as a region of Violence

Gender in the West

The Environmental West as a region of Aridity

And the Modern West

**Method of determining course grade:**

Five Book Reviews 500 pts

Four Essays 200 pts

Ten Responses 200 pts

Final Essay Test 100 pts

Total points 1000 pts

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60,

W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reason beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

**Instructor’s policy on Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating on an exam will result in a grade of zero for the test. This would make it extremely difficult to pass the class. The student is strongly encouraged to pass this class the old fashioned way . . . through studying.

**Service for the Disabled**: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University.

**IMPORTANT DATES**: Last day to drop: December 4

Last day to drop with "**W**": January 25

Last day to drop with "**WP**" or "**WF**": February 1

**Schedule of Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments**:

Date Topic Book Review Hine & Faragher Essays

Nov 12-18 Introduction Essay 1

Nov 19-25 Classic Scholars Book Review 1 3

Nov 26-Dec 2 *Thanksgiving Break*

Dec 3-9 Native Americans 1-2 Essay 2

Dec 10-16 The Frontier Book Review 2 4-5

Dec 17-23 *Christmas Break Dec 20-Jan 2*

Dec 24-30 *Christmas Break Dec 20-Jan 2*

Dec 31-Jan 6 Desert Southwest Essay 3

Jan 7-13 Agriculture Book Review 3 11

Jan 14-20 Violence 6-7

Jan 21-27 Gender in the West Book Review 4

Jan 28-Feb 3 Environmental 14 Essay 4

Feb 4-10 Modern West Book Review 5 16

Feb 11-16 Final Essay Test

Book Review Guidelines

1. The heading (as a bibliographic entry), which includes author, title, and

publication information followed by your name (the reviewer):

Holland, Tom. Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West. New York: Anchor Books, 2005.

Reviewed by:

Your Name

2. Who is the author? Are they qualified to write the book, do they have an agenda or bias?

3. The introduction, which includes a brief summary of the book and especially its thesis. What is the scope of the volume under review? (Chronological as well as thematic) What is the Author's thesis? Note the salient features of his argument, listing the page numbers if appropriate. Reviews should be between four to six pages in length.

4. A recap of the evidence that the author uses to back the thesis. A discussion of the author's point of view may be part of this summary.

5. A discussion of how the book supports, attacks modifies, or expands the view of a subject covered by the course.

6. Comments about the book's readability and any features, such as illustrations, and bibliography, worthy of note. (Stylistic qualities. Maps, tables, index...) What are the author's main sources? How does he use them?

7. Your criticism. Give a final recommendation for or against the book as an aid to understanding the subject.

8. Reviews should be a minimum of three typed pages normal format, doubled spaced, Times New Roman, etc.

9. Grade: 20% format/style; 30% grammar, spelling, etc.; 50% content

Feel free to elaborate on any of these categories, or even to introduce new or additional categories if you feel them to be important.

You can get some idea of how book reviews are written by looking in scholarly journals like the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, the Historian, American Historical Review*. Remember, however, that scholarly journal reviews are written by and for professional historians with a wide knowledge of the subject. For a fuller discussion of how to write book reports, see "Reviewing books and articles," in Henry J. Steffens and Mary Jane Dickerson, *Writer's Guide: History* (Lexington: D.C. Heath, 1987), 60-68 or Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* 4th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2004), 24-26.