

**WESTERN AMERICAN LITERATURE
TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE
ENGLISH 668**

Dr. Jennifer Dawes Adkison

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 a.m., and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS

Royce, *A Frontier Lady*

Wister, *The Virginian*

Stewart, *Letters of a Woman Homesteader*

Cather, *My Antonia*

Greenwood, *We Sagebrush Folks*

Schaeffer, *Shane*

Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

Gloss, *The Jump-Off Creek*

Blew, *All But the Waltz*

Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*

Proulx, *Brokeback Mountain, Story to Screenplay*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will read and discuss twentieth-century works with a focus on western American literature. Using recent works of literary criticism, both in the areas of western criticism and ecocriticism, we will talk about how the literary works construct, analyze, and interpret the West for their readers and how this is reflected in our cultural understanding of the West as a real and imagined place.

ASSIGNMENTS

Annotated Bibliography	25 percent
Presentation	15 percent
Short Paper	20 percent
Prospectus & Seminar Paper	40 percent

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One

January 10—Course Introduction

Week Two

January 17—Readings in western criticism

Week Three

January 24—A Frontier Lady (written 1880s/first published 1932)

Week Four

January 31—The Virginian (1902)

Week Five

February 7—The Virginian

Week Six

February 14—Letters of a Woman Homesteader (1914)

Week Seven

February 21—My Antonia (1918)

Week Eight

February 28—We Sagebrush Folks (1934)

Week Nine

March 7—We Sagebrush Folks

Week Ten—Spring Break

Week Eleven

March 21—Shane (1949)

Week Twelve

March 28—Desert Solitaire (1968)

Week Thirteen

April 4—The Jump-Off Creek (1989)

Week Fourteen

April 11—All But the Waltz (1991)

Week Fifteen

April 18—The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (1993)

Week Sixteen

April 25—Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Week Seventeen

May 2—Brokeback Mountain

Week Eighteen: Finals week; Final paper due—May 9

POLICIES

Message from ADA Disabilities & Resource Center

Our program is committed to helping all students achieve their potential. If you have a disability or think you have a disability (physical, learning disability, hearing, vision, psychiatric), which may need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the ADA Disabilities & Resource Center in Graveley Hall, Room 123, 282-3599.

Decorum Policy

Because university course work requires focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Department of English and Philosophy expects the classroom to be a place of courteous interaction. The demonstration of mutual respect between teachers and students includes arriving and leaving class at the designated times, participating in classroom activities, and adapting to new and varied learning styles and tasks. Academic communication requires that all of us listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not), state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Classroom standards for academic courtesy apply to group work and student-teacher conferences as well.

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to a graduate seminar, and I expect everyone to attend every class. However, if circumstances arise that would cause you to miss a class, please do let me know what's going on.