

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:
  - a. James Fenimore Cooper, *The Prairie* (Oxford)
  - b. John Rollin Ridge, *Joaquin Murieta* (Oklahoma)
  - c. Mark Twain, *Roughing It* (Signet)
  - d. Owen Wister, *The Virginian* (Pocket Books)
  - e. D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (New Mexico)
  - f. Willa Cather, *My Ántonia* (Penguin)
  - 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 19<sup>th</sup> century (due October 6).
  - b. innovations in the western formula in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:	2 examinations	...	200
	2 papers of equal value	...	<u>200</u>
			400 total

A= 360+    B=359-320    C=319-28    D=279-240    F=below 240

Final grades will *not* be fractionalized.

- August 25 Introduction
- Sept 1 Cooper: *The Prairie*
- 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

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