

History 4000  
The American and Canadian Wests, 1850-Present Day  
Spring 2009 T/R 8:00-9:15

The course explores the development of the American and Canadian Wests from 1850 until the present day. The American portion covers the building of the trans-continental railroad, the development of the American plains as a different region, Indian policy and wars, the western novel, the annexation of Hawai'i, and the purchase of Alaska in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It later looks at themes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century West including tourism, and the effects of World War II and the Cold War on the West. The Canadian portion examines how a "west" was created out of the Hudson's Bay Company lands for the newly emerging Canadian confederation. The building of the trans-Canadian railroad, the creation of western provinces, and the settling of the Canadian plains will be examined.

Instructor: John Whitehead

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**Required Books:**

- 1) Stephen Ambrose, Nothing Like It in the World
- 2) Douglas Owsam, Promise of Eden: The Canadian Expansionist Movement
- 3) Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains
- 4) Whitehead, Completing the Union: Alaska, Hawai'i and the Battle for Statehood
- 5) A western novel of the student's choosing from a list of authors to be supplied

The four named books have been ordered in paperback editions at local textbook dealers. They are also available through Amazon.com

Additional readings in Xerox form will be distributed in class.

**Course Requirements:** (including percentage of final grade)

Two, in-class examinations—20% each

Western novel paper, 5-7 pages, 15%

Western Issues paper 7-10 pages, 20%

Final Examination 25%

**Attendance:** Regular Attendance is expected as a good amount of lecture material is not covered in the readings. Though not a formal calculated part of the grade, I will take notice of attendance and use it in resolving grades that are right on the borderline (i.e. 89.2)

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.