Where is, and what is, the American West? Is it a physical place? Is it a state of mind? Is it a narrative framework for telling tales about Americans and American history?

This advanced history course engages these questions through a combination of lectures and reading and writing assignments focused on the historical experiences of individuals in the American West over the last five centuries. We will read the memoir of Jack Bailey, a farm boy from North Texas who drove cattle to Kansas after the Civil War. We will read a collective biography of children abducted by Comanches and Apaches during the middle of the nineteenth century, as well as Laura Ingalls Wilder’s classic children’s book, Little House on the Prairie. We will read the work of Vine Deloria, Jr. and other American Indian activists who resisted American colonialism, in part, by authoring their own interpretations of western history. We will read Into the Wild, John Krakauer’s account of a young college graduate dying in the Alaskan bush in an attempt to flee civilization, and consider the ongoing relevance of these tales of western history and American identity in our own time.

Written work consists of three in-class examinations and three analytical essays of 1,000 to 2,000 words each.

Required Books (4):
Grading Criteria and Assignment Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 26, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #1 (Zesch)</td>
<td>Monday, October 22, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 31, 2018</td>
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<td>Essay #2 (Wilder)</td>
<td>Friday, November 30, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>Monday, December 3, 2018</td>
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<td>Essay #3 (Krakauer)</td>
<td>Saturday, December 8, 2018</td>
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(Essay #3 will take the place of a formal final exam)

Accessibility:
This course is committed to accessibility. If you need certain accommodations, please notify me (Michael Wise) in person as soon as possible. If it is not possible to discuss accommodations in person, for whatever reason, then please email me at michael.wise@unt.edu or call me at (940) 891-6774.

Blackboard Website:
Grades and digitized course materials, including all assigned readings, will be available on Blackboard. Please note, however, that this is not an online course, and that changes to the syllabus and other important information may not always be available on Blackboard.

Attendance:
Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to attended all class sessions. Four or more absences will result in an “F.”

Week 1: INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN HISTORY
M, 8/27 Course Introduction
W, 8/29 Frederick Jackson Turner and the Frontier Thesis
READ:
F, 8/31 The “New Western History”
READ:

Week 2: THE SPANISH NORTH
M, 9/3 No class – Labor Day
W, 9/5 The Spanish Conquests
READ:
*Andrés Reséndez, A Land So Strange: The Epic Voyage of Cabeza de Vaca, 1-68.
F, 9/7  The *Entradas*

READ:

**Week 3:**  THE NATIVE NEW WORLD

M, 9/10  Horses and the Native American West

READ:

W, 9/12  Furs and the *Pays d’en Haut*

READ:

F, 9/14  Native *Louisiane*

READ:


**Week 4:**  REVOLUTION IN THE WEST

M, 9/17  War and the Proclamation Line

READ:

W, 9/19  No class – Prof. Wise at the Bullock Museum in Austin
The Northwest Land Ordinances

READ:

**Week 5:** EXAM WEEK #1

- **M, 9/24** Review Session
- **W, 9/26** Exam #1
- **F, 9/28** Settler Colonialism
  READ:

**Week 6:** SETTLER COLONIALISM

- **M, 10/1** Agriculture and the Market Revolution
  READ:
  Zesch, 1-40.
- **W, 10/3** Indian Removal
  READ:
  Zesch, 41-87.
- **F, 10/5** The Trail of Tears
  READ:
  Zesch, 88-139.

**Week 7:** THE FAR WEST

- **M, 10/8** The Lewis and Clark Expedition
  READ:
  Zesch, 140-201.
- **W, 10/9** Lewis and Clark’s Southern Counterparts
  READ:
  Zesch, 202-236.
- **F, 10/11** The Online Journals of Lewis and Clark: Meet in GAB Computer Lab
  READ:
  Zesch, 237-284.
Week 8: TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, AND THE WAR WITH MEXICO

M, 10/15 Texas, California, and the War with Mexico
   READ:

W, 10/17, and F, 10/19
   No class – Prof. Wise attending Western History Association annual conference in San Antonio
   READ:
   Jack Bailey, A Texas Cowboy’s Journal, all.

Week 9: COWBOYS, INDIANS, AND MEAT

M, 10/22 The Cattle Trails
   READ:
   Bailey, finish.
   DUE:
   Essay #1 (Zesch)

W, 10/24 Chicago and the Railroad
   READ:

F, 10/26 Making Meat
   READ:

Week 10: EXAM WEEK #2

M, 10/29 Review Session

W, 10/31 Exam #2

F, 11/2 Incorporation and Privatization
   READ:
Week 11: PRIVATIZING THE AMERICAN WEST

M, 11/5 The Homestead Act and the Pacific Railway Act
READ:

W, 11/7 The Indian Wars
READ:
Wilder, 162-262.

F, 11/9 The Allotment Acts
READ:
Wilder, 263-335.

Week 12: GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR CITIZENS IN THE AMERICAN WEST

M, 11/12 The Roots of Conservation
READ:

W, 11/14 The Dust Bowl
READ:

F, 11/16 World War II
READ:

Week 13: THE NUCLEAR WEST

M, 11/19 The Nuclear West
READ:

*No class – Thanksgiving Holiday*
Week 14:  THE MODERN AND POST-MODERN AMERICAN WESTS

M, 11/26  Termination and AIM
READ:

W, 11/28  Tourism and the New West
READ:

F, 11/30  Review Session
DUE:
Essay #2 (Wilder)

Week 15:  EXAM WEEK #3

M, 12/3  Exam #3

W, 12/5  Into the Wild discussion
READ:
Krakauer, 70-203.

F, 12/7  No class – Reading Day

FINAL EXAM WEEK

Saturday, 12/8  DUE:
Essay #3 (Krakauer) by email to michael.wise@unt.edu
please email your essay no later than dawn on Sunday, 12/9.