

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I 1989-90

HISTORY 462 (History of the American West)

Professor Bogue

This is the second half of a two-semester course on the History of the American West. Like the other semester (461), it can be taken independently. It deals particularly with the varying ways of life and patterns of resource use which Americans developed on the frontier and the impact which the frontier process had upon American institutions and upon the American mind and character, as well as the relation of these processes and developments to modern problems of conservation and environment.

Textual Readings

*Andy Adams, The Log of a Cowboy (Paper)

*Allan G. Bogue, James E. Wright, Thomas D. Phillips, The West of the American People (Kinko copy)

*A. B. Guthrie, The Big Sky (Paper)

*John Ise, Sod and Stubble: The Story of a Kansas Homestead (Paper)

*Edith E. Kohl, Land of the Burnt Thigh (Paper)

*Lawrence Svobida, Farming the Dust Bowl (Paper)

Circulation Desk: Wisconsin State Historical Society

Marion S. Goldman, "Sexual Commerce on the Comstock Lode"

William T. Hagan, "Tribalism Rejuvenated: The Native American since the Era of Termination"

Samuel P. Hays, "From Conservation to Environment"

Wilbur Jacobs, "The Great Despoliation: Environmental Themes in American Frontier History"

Carlos A. Schwantes, "The Concept of the Wage Workers Frontier: A Framework for Future Research"

William Tucker, "Environmentalism and the Leisure Class: Protecting Birds, Fishes, and above All, Social Privilege"

Clara T. Woody and Milton L. Schwartz, "War In Pleasant Valley . . ."

John R. Wunder, "Chinese in Trouble: Criminal Law and Race on the Trans-Mississippi West Frontier"

Below is a list of survey treatments of the American West which you may wish to use to supplement the textual readings. For reading on more specific topics, check the bibliographies in *Frank Freidel, Harvard Guide to American History, Writings on American History; *Ray A. Billington and Martin Ridge, Westward Expansion; *O.O. Winther's Classified Bibliography of the Periodical Literature of the Trans-Mississippi West and its "Supplement;" *Rodman W. Paul and Richard W. Etulain, The Frontier and the American West; *Francis Paul Prucha, A Bibliographical Guide to the History of Indian-White Relations in the United States and Handbook for Research in American History; *Michael P. Malone, Historians and the American West; *Roger L. Nichols, American Frontier and Western Issues. Periodicals dealing with western history particularly are: The Western Historical Quarterly, Journal of the Southwest (formerly Arizona and the West), and The American West (popularly written and heavily illustrated). The Environmental Review serves the growing field of environmental history.

*A.G. Bogue, T.D. Phillips, and J.E. Wright, The West of the American People

*Richard A. Bartlett, The New Country

*Ray A. Billington and Martin Ridge, Westward Expansion: A History of the American Frontier

*F.J. Turner, The Frontier in American History (1982 ed.)

*Thomas Clark, Frontier America

*John A. Hawgood, America's Western Frontiers

*L.R. Hafen and C.C. Rister, Western America

*Patricia N. Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West

*Michael P. Malone, Historians and the American West

*D'Arcy McNickle, Native American Tribalism: Indian Survivals and Renewals

*Frederick Merk, History of the Westward Movement

*Gerald Nash, The American West in the Twentieth Century

*Roger L. Nichols, American Frontier and Western Issues: A Historiographic Review

*Joseph M. Petulla, American Environmental History

*Robert E. Riegel and Robert C. Athearn, America Moves West

*Jerome O. Steffen, The American West: New Perspectives, New Dimensions

*Starred books are also on reserve at the Circulation Desk: Wisconsin State Historical Society

Tests: Oct. 6 (required); Nov. 22 (Optional)

Assignments: Four credit registrants will have additional obligations beyond those of the three credit registrants. The exact nature of these obligations will be explained after the size of the class is determined.

Any student may voluntarily submit one or more papers to replace the grade received on a test or to reduce the weight of the final exam in the course grade. Such papers will involve the identification and preparation of a comparative critical abstract of four periodical articles on subjects appropriate to this course selected from scholarly journals such as the Western Historical Quarterly, the Journal of the Southwest, Montana: The Magazine of Western History, Agricultural History, the Pacific Historical Review etc. These should be six to eight typewritten pages in length and follow the usual rules for footnotes. A short bibliography of sources should be attached. All such papers must be turned in by December 6.

Final Exam:

A conventional final will be given as provided in the exam schedule but an alternate take-home exam will be available in the last week of classes for those who prefer it, to be due on the date of the in-class final.

LECTURE OUTLINE

I THE CONTEXT

Reading: Bogue et al, WAP, Chaps. 1, 3; Jacobs, "Great Despoliation."

Wed. Sept. 6 Introduction
Fri. Sept. 8 Native Americans (Film: "The Lakota")
Mon. Sept. 11 Tribes, government, and politics
Wed. Sept. 13 A "Vanishing Race" does not vanish

II PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Fur Trader

Reading: Guthrie, The Big Sky; WAP, Chap. 10.

Fri. Sept. 15 Furs and the struggle for empire
Mon. Sept. 18 The great companies
Wed. Sept. 20 The mountain man: nature's nobleman?

Mining

Reading: WAP, Chap. 11; Goldman, "Sexual Commerce on the Comstock Lode"; Schwantes, "Wage Worker's Frontier

Fri. Sept. 22 The California Rush
Mon. Sept. 25 Other bonanzas
Wed. Sept. 27 Strikes and consequences

Grazing

Reading: WAP, Chap. 12; Adams, Log of a Cowboy

Fri. Sept. 29 Drovers and grazers
Mon. Oct. 2 The mythical cow poke
Wed. Oct. 4 Sheepish business
Fri. Oct. 6 SIX WEEKS TEST

The Farmers

Reading: Ise, Sod and Stubble; WAP, Chap. 13.

Mon. Oct. 9 Taking the land

Wed. Oct. 11 Nesters and soddies
 Fri. Oct. 13 Film: The Settling of the Plains
 Mon. Oct. 16 "In God we trusted -- in Kansas we busted"

III THE CONTINUING WEST

The Westerner as "New" Person

Reading: WAP, Chap. 16; Wunder, "Chinese in Trouble"; Woody and Schwartz, "War in Pleasant Valley"

Wed. Oct. 18 The westerner as stereotype
 Fri. Oct. 20 Did the frontier change people?
 Mon. Oct. 23 The violent west
 Wed. Oct. 25 Paging General Custer

Reading: Kohl, Land of the Burnt Thigh

Fri. Oct. 27 The woman's West
 Mon. Oct. 30 Two women west -- contemporary voices
 Wed. Nov. 1 Film: "Minority Pioneers"

THE WEST AS CLOSED SPACE

Reading: WAP, Chaps. 14, 18.

Fri. Nov. 3 Hell-raisin farmers in politics
 Mon. Nov. 6 The conservation movement
 Wed. Nov. 8 John Muir and the environmental impulse

Reading: Svobida, Farming the Dust Bowl

Fri. Nov. 10 The last homesteaders
 Mon. Nov. 13 The "Dirty Thirties"
 Wed. Nov. 15 Water for thirsty lands
 Fri. Nov. 17 Building ditch and stealing water
 Mon. Nov. 20 Film: "Where Did the Colorado River Go?"
 Wed. Nov. 22 TWELVE WEEKS TEST (OPTIONAL)

Reading: Hays, "From Conservation to Environment;" Tucker, "Environmentalism and the Leisure Class"

Mon. Nov. 27 Aldo Leopold and the idea of wilderness
 Wed. Nov. 29 The Quiet Crisis and rebound
 Fri. Dec. 1 One Third of the Nation's Land
 Mon. Dec. 4 The meaning of Earth Day

Reading: WAP, Chap. 17; Hagan, "Tribalism Rejuvenated"

Wed. Dec. 6 Alaska and its meaning
Fri. Dec. 8 Alaska: the last great victory?
Mon. Dec. 11 Sage Brushers and Watts
Wed. Dec. 13 And what of the Native American?
Fri. Dec. 15 Review