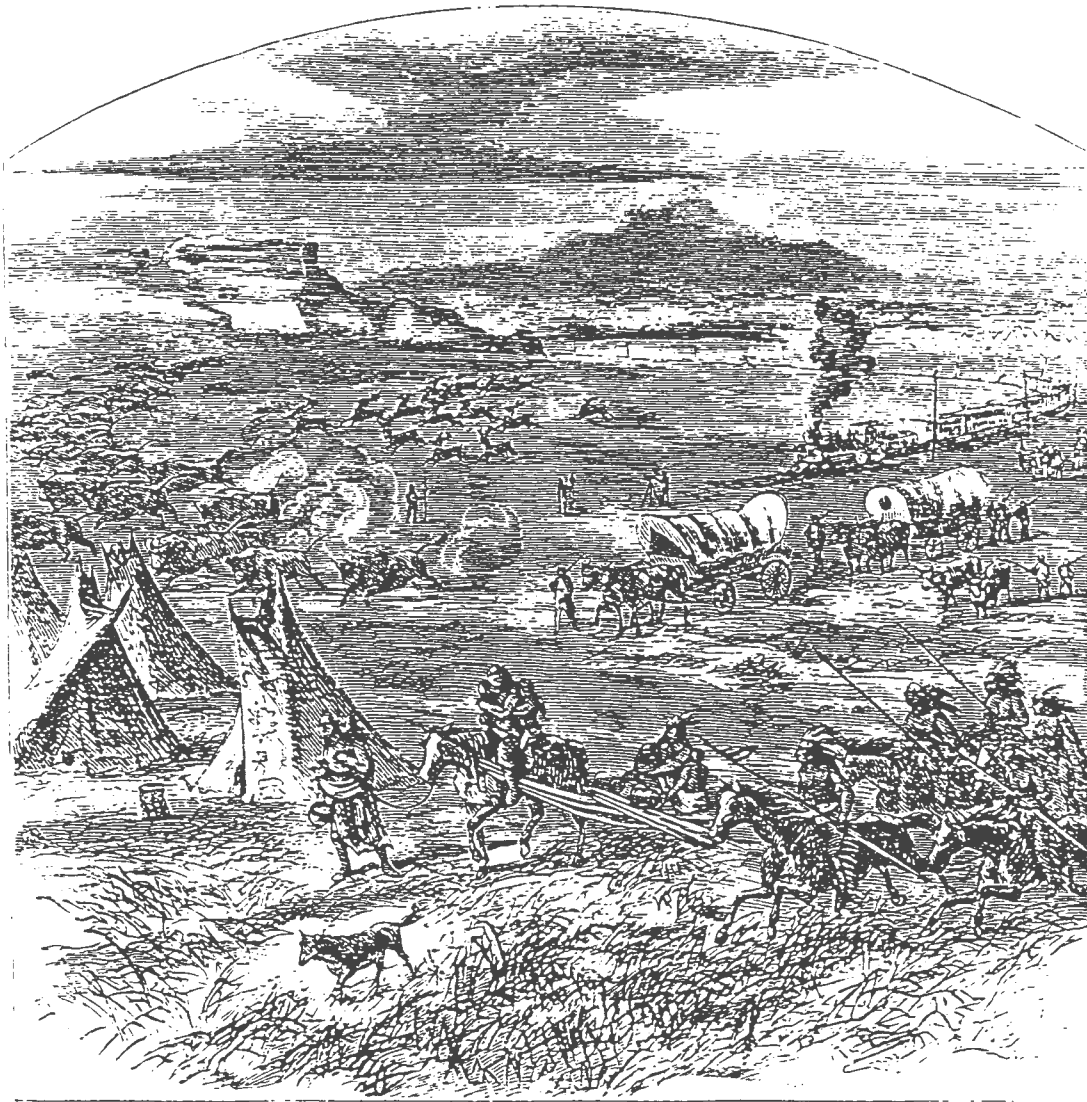


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THE COURSE OF EMPIRE.

HISTORY 462
THE AMERICAN WEST SINCE 1850
BILL CRONON 5103 HUMANITIES, 263-1840

History 462

THE AMERICAN WEST SINCE 1850

LECTURER: Bill Cronon, 5103 Humanities.

Phone: 263-1840; this has an answering machine that will take as long a message as you need to leave. You can also contact me via E-Mail at CRONONW@VMS.MACC.WISC.EDU. Please, no calls to my home phone.

Office Hours: 10:00-11:30 A.M., Wednesdays and Thursdays. I would prefer to see you during regular hours, but will be glad to meet with you at other times if necessary. Please don't just stop by my office if you need to see me at times other than my office hours, however; call first to make an appointment.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Ellen Baker, 5260 Humanities

Phone: 263-2386; please, no calls to home telephone either.

Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Wednesdays and 10:00-11:00 Thursdays.

LECTURES will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30-3:45 P.M in 1131 Humanities.

A NOTE ON THE READINGS:

This syllabus provides a detailed outline of what will be happening in the course, and we advise you to refer to it often as you plan your studying. Readings are extensive but not difficult; they have been chosen as much as possible to be fun and provocative as well as informative. They average between 100 and 150 pages per week, and are of several types.

The central reference text for the course is Howard Lamar's Reader's Encyclopedia of the American West, henceforth referred to as REAW. Unlike an ordinary textbook, which is traditionally written as a chronological narrative, the Encyclopedia is just that: an alphabetical listing of names, places, and topics. You will find it helpful when you review for examinations, but its main attraction is simply as a tool for wandering and wondering about the many topics of western history. REAW is unfortunately out of print right now while a new edition is being prepared, but I've placed a number of my own personal copies on reserve in the main reading room of the State Historical Society Library. You're welcome to use them there, and since they're my own copies, I'd be grateful if you treat them with special care. In the reading list that follows, assignments from the Encyclopedia will be indicated with the heading "REAW". Entries marked with CAPITALS are required reading; those marked with an asterisk (*) are important but not essential; and those in plain lower-case letters are purely optional.

But don't stop with the listings we give you. Try to take an hour every week or two simply to wander through REAW more or less randomly, following topics as they catch your eye, or tracing one reference to another; use it in this way in conjunction with other course readings. Part of "doing history" is being willing to follow your curiosity, and learning how to find answers to questions you didn't realize you had when you started out. Wandering through REAW--and then using its references to move on to other sources--is much more akin to what historians actually do than is reading a textbook narrative. Try to create your own stories and problems from the fragments it provides.

The rest of the reading in the course falls into two categories: books and xeroxed documents. Required books are as follows:

Maisie and Richard Conrat, The American Farm

Donald Worster, Dust Bowl

John McPhee, Coming Into the Country.

Note that the Conrats' American Farm book is now out of print; here again, I've placed my own personal copies on reserve at the State Historical Society Library, and since the book consists primarily of photographs, it won't be too difficult for you to use it there. Treat these carefully as well. You will also be reading ONE of the following two books in conjunction with your first paper:

John Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks, OR

Frank Linderman, Pretty Shield.

The great bulk of the course's readings are contained in a document packet which you should definitely plan to purchase once you've decided to take the course; it costs about \$45, and will be sold through Bob's Copy Shop in the University Mall. Readings in the document packet are indicated by an (X) in the weekly syllabus below.

In addition to the above readings, you are required to own (and use frequently) a high-quality map of the United States which shows both political and physiographic features. Ideally, you should plan to hang it on the wall of your room. The University Bookstore has copies of Rand McNally's "Cosmopolitan" map available for purchase at the information desk on the first floor, but if you already own a good atlas or map, don't bother to buy another. You will also be expected to read William Strunk and E. B. White's The Elements of Style during the first week of class, before writing your first discussion paper, and you should refer to it regularly during the semester: the book is thin but worth its weight in gold, and we recommend that you own a copy.

FILMS:

Because a major theme of the course is the role of the West in American popular culture, a number of movies will be shown both to exemplify certain aspects of the course and to trace the development of the western genre of film. Your final paper will require a knowledge of the films we show, and there will be film-related questions on the final exam, so the more westerns you see, the better. Movies to be shown are:

Heartland (in class, September 21, 23)

Stage Coach (7:30 P.M., Thursday, November 4)

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (7:30, Wednesday, November 17)

A Family Gathering (in class, Thursday, December 2)

PAPERS AND EXAMINATIONS:

We regard the four-credit version of History 462 as a writing-intensive course, designed to give students significant help not only with the process of "doing history" but also with writing. We encourage all who are interested in improving their prose to take the four-credit version (the course involves a fairly heavy load even without the final paper and short writing assignments, so four credits probably reflect the total workload better than three). Aside from the readings listed above, coursework at the four-credit level will include two exams (a mid-term, and a final that will mainly cover the second half of the course), two one-page discussion papers, a short analytical paper early in the course, and a longer final paper (with associated outline) which is described below. Final grades for students who are taking the course for four credits will be the average of the two tests (20% for the midterm and 25% for the final), the short paper (15%) the final paper (20%), and the two one-page discussion papers in combination with classroom participation (20%). Students who choose to take the course for only three credits will write only one discussion paper and will not write the final paper, so their grade will be taken as the average of the two tests (25% for the midterm and 35% for the final), the short paper (20%) and section participation in combination with the one-page discussion paper (20%). Late papers will not be greeted enthusiastically, and will be marked down by at least one-half of a grade (more depending on how late they come in) unless you have made other arrangements well in advance of the due date. No paper will be accepted after the final exam without a medical excuse.

SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT: This will ask you to discuss the presentation of Plains Indian life in the books Black Elk Speaks and Pretty Shield. More information about the assignment will be given out in lecture.

FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT: We encourage you to start thinking about this early, since it can potentially incorporate materials from many parts of the course. It asks that you act as the historical consultant for a major new film dealing with some aspect of American western history. Drawing on your knowledge of the various films we watch in the course (as well as any other western films you've seen), select a group of documents from the readings to assess how they might be used as the basis for a film. You may do additional research if you like, but you are not required to do so; just be sure that the subject you want to discuss is reasonably well-represented in the readings. If in doubt, discuss your proposed subject with your section leader.

The job that faces you as historical consultant is to propose a story synopsis based on the documents that would be particularly suitable for treatment in film. Sketch out the story you propose, suggest why it would work well as a film, and then say why the topic is a historically important one. Your producer wants you to come up with a subject that will make money at the box office, but you as a historian are also eager that those people learn something about western history from the movie. Discuss the difficulties of fulfilling these competing tasks, making reference if possible to how other films have solved (or not solved) the problem. You can adopt at least two different strategies in the actual paper: you can propose a film that would be successful as an example of the western genre, but which is historically problematic for reasons you then analyze; or you can try to propose a film that is historically accurate, and then explain the problems it might have in representing the western genre. The paper will be due the last day of lecture, and should be between 8 and 12 pages long.

WEEKLY OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

(REAW assignments are indicated as follows: CAPITALS are required; asterisked items (*) are important but not crucial; and all other listings are purely optional. Readings from the xeroxed document text are marked with an X followed by the relevant page numbers.)

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTORY

Sept. 2: From Frontier to West

REAW: FRONTIER THEORY; FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER.

SECTION: No section meetings this week, but start next week's readings.

WEEK 2: MID-CENTURY WATERSHEDS

Sept. 7: Towards War

REAW: BROWN, JOHN; *Civil War; COMPROMISE OF 1850; *election of 1848; *election of 1852; *election of 1856; *election of 1860; Jayhawkers; KANSAS-NEBRASKA ISSUE; MISSOURI COMPROMISE; Quantrill's Raiders.

Sept. 9: Communications Revolution

REAW: CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD; CREDIT MOBILIER; RAILROAD LAND GRANTS; RAILROADS; TELEGRAPH; TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD SURVEYS; UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

SECTION: Frederick Jackson Turner, "Selections" (X, 1-14)

Walt Whitman, Poems (X, 15)

Elizabeth Dixon Smith Geer, "Diary and Letter" (X, 16-20)

Eliza Farnham, Life in Prairie Land (X, 21-25)

Indian Testimony: Charlot, Cochise, Buffalo Bird Woman (X, 26-29)

Strunk & White, The Elements of Style

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: All students should turn in a one-page definition of "the West," in the best, most careful prose you can muster.

WEEK 3: UNDERGROUND EMPIRE

Sept. 14: Empire of the Sierra

REAW: DAME SHIRLEY; GOLD AND SILVER RUSHES; MINING, METAL; MINING LAW; MINING TOWNS; PROSTITUTION; *William C. Ralston; *Adolph Sutro; VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA.

Sept. 16: On Serendipity: Diamond Hoaxes, Corporations, Engineers

REAW: BOOM TOWNS; GEOLOGICAL SURVEY; Great Diamond Hoax; CLARENCE KING; MINING ENGINEER; JOHN WESLEY POWELL.

SECTION: Dame Shirley, Letters (X, 30-60)

Lord, Comstock Mining and Miners (X, 61-119)

J. Ross Browne, "A Peep at Washoe" (X, 120-32)

"How We Live in Nevada" (X, 133-36)

WEEK 4: TRAILS TO THE GRASSLANDS

Sept. 21: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

Sept. 21: Start In-Class Screening of HEARTLAND

Sept. 23: Ranches and Ranges

(At start of lecture, we will finish viewing the film HEARTLAND.)

REAW: BARBED WIRE; CATTLE ASSOCIATIONS; CATTLE INDUSTRY; CATTLE TOWNS; JOHNSON COUNTY WAR; LINCOLN COUNTY WAR; *Joseph T. McCoy; SHEEP RANCHING; Charles Siringo; TEXAS FEVER.

SECTION: McCoy, Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade (X, 268-91)

Allen, "Harvard Men in the Range Cattle Business," (X, 292-98)

Nat Love, Life and Adventures (X, 299-310)

WEEK 5: THOSE WHOSE LAND IT WAS

Sept. 28: Civil War and Indian War

REAW: ARMY ON THE FRONTIER; *John M. Chivington; INDIAN CAPTIVITY NARRATIVES; INDIAN WARS, 1850-69; MINNESOTA UPRISING; SAND CREEK MASSACRE.

Sept. 30: Coming of the Ghost Dance

REAW: BUFFALO; CHIEF JOSEPH; GEORGE A. CUSTER; GHOST DANCE; INDIAN WARS, 1865-91; U.S. INDIAN POLICY, 1860-90; LITTLE BIG HORN, BATTLE OF; NELSON MILES; *Nez Perce; NEZ PERCE WAR; PEACE POLICY; *Washita, Battle of; *Sioux; *Sitting Bull; WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE.

SECTION: Either Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks, OR

Linderman, Pretty Shield

Russell, "The Story of the Buffalo" (X, 223-28)

White, "Captivity Among the Sioux" (X, 229-46)

Snana, "Narration of a Friendly Sioux" (X, 247-49)

Nelson Miles, "The Indian Problem" (X, 250-56)

Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View of Indian Affairs"(X, 257-67)

NOTE: Your short paper, covering this collection of readings, is due in section. It would be a good idea to look over Strunk and White's The Elements of Style again before writing it.

WEEK 6: WORLD OF ENCLAVES

Oct. 5: Reform and the Indians

REAW: *Carlisle Indian School; Edward S. Curtis; HENRY L. DAWES; INDIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU; INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION; U.S. INDIAN POLICY, 1860-1920; HELEN HUNT JACKSON; PEACE POLICY.

Oct. 6: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

Oct. 7: Boundaries of Race

REAW: CHINATOWNS; CHINESE, RIOTS AGAINST; CHINESE-AMERICANS; CHINESE IMMIGRATIONS; MEXICAN AMERICANS; NEGROES IN THE FAR WEST; NEGROES ON THE FRONTIER.

SECTION: Readings are heavier than usual this week, so start with the asterisked texts in case you run out of time; other texts are optional:

*Jackson, A Century of Dishonor (X, 541-47)

*Dawes Act (X, 548-52)

"Documents in Hopi Indian Sexuality" (X, optional, 553-70)

*Zitkala-Sa, "Autobiography," (X, 571-87)

*Fletcher, "The Negro Exodus" (X, 188-201)

G. B. Densmore, The Chinese in California (X, optional, 202-218)

*"Chinese Women in California" (X, optional, 219-22)

*Young, "Proclamation" (X, 137-40)

Bowles, Across the Continent (X, optional, 141-57)

*A. M., "A Week Among the Mormons" (X, 158-67)

*Tanner, A Mormon Mother (X, 167-82)

Edmunds Bill Debates (X, optional, 183-85)

Woodruff Declaration (X, 186-87)

WEEK 7: DRY ZION

Oct. 12: Theocracy in a Land of Little Rain: Utah

REAW: LATTER-DAY SAINTS; POLYGAMY; UTAH; BRIGHAM YOUNG.

OCT. 12 EVENING REVIEW SESSION, 7:00-8:30 (optional, but strongly encouraged)

Oct. 14: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

SECTION: No section this week.

WEEK 8: FROM FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

Oct. 19: Taking the Forest

REAW: PAUL BUNYAN; LUMBER INDUSTRY; LUMBERJACK.

Oct. 21: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

Oct. 21: Busting the Sod

REAW: HOMESTEAD ACT; immigration; LAND POLICY, 1789-1896; PUBLIC DOMAIN; SOD HOUSE.

SECTION: Conrat, The American Farm, pp 61-121 (study photos)

Kaime, "Where Our Lumber Comes From" (X, review 268-9, 311-13)

"The Minnesota Pineries" (X, 314-28)

"The Future Demand for Lumber" (X, 329-30)

Iowa: The Home for Immigrants (X, 331-40)

1864 Farmer's Northwestern Almanac (X, 341-62)

Colt, Went to Kansas (X, 363-409)

"Among the Wheat-Fields of Minnesota" (X, 410-22)

Cronon, "To Be the Central City" (X, 423-34)

WEEK 9: NEW ORDERS ON THE LAND

Oct. 26: Bonanza Farms and Boards of Trade

REAW: BONANZA FARMING; DRY FARMING.

Oct. 28: Farmers' Revolt

REAW: AGRARIAN MOVEMENTS; ELECTIONS OF 1892, 1896; GRANGER LAWS; *Oliver H. Kelley; Mary E. Lease; William A. Pepper; People's Party, Kansas; POPULISM; SILVER ISSUE.

SECTION: "The Trumpet of Reform" (X, 435-41)

Barr, "The Populist Uprising in Kansas" (X, 442-51)

Morgan, "The Wheel and the Alliance" (X, 452-66)

"Luna E. Kellie and the Farmers' Alliance" (X, 467-78)

Bemis, "The Discontent of the Farmer" (X, 479-90)

Norris, "A Deal in Wheat" (X, 491-505)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: All four-credit students will submit a one-page discussion paper based on the documents for this week and last.

WEEK 10: DREAMS OF BETTER WORLDS

Nov. 2: Miners and Wobblies

REAW: CRIPPLE CREEK STRIKES; INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD; LABOR MOVEMENT; *Pinkerton Detective Agency; WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS.

Nov. 4: California Dreamin'

REAW: H. H. Bancroft; CALIFORNIA; CITIES, GROWTH OF; LOS ANGELES; SAN FRANCISCO; TOURIST TRAVEL; *utopian colonies; woman suffrage.

Nov. 4: Evening Film: STAGECOACH (required)

SECTION: Rastall, The Labor History of the Cripple Creek District (X, 506-32)

Cripple Creek Times, Labor Troubles of 1903-4 (X, 533-40)

Adams, "To and Fro in Southern California" (X, 651-67)

Sanborn, A Truthful Woman in Southern California (X, 668-72)

Southern California Paradise (X, 673-75)

Souvenir Sporting Guide (X, 676-84)

WEEK 11: DUST BOWL AND NEW DEAL

Nov. 9: Conservation or Preservation

REAW: *Boone & Crockett Club; CONSERVATION MOVEMENT; JOHN MUIR; *Francis Newlands; NEWLANDS RECLAMATION ACT; GIFFORD PINCHOT; **RECLAMATION AND IRRIGATION; THEODORE ROOSEVELT; *Sierra Club; wilderness; Yellowstone National Park; Yosemite National Park.

Nov. 11: Crisis of American Agriculture

REAW: AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION; DUST BOWL; Woody Guthrie; OKIES; *John Steinbeck.

SECTION: Worster, Dust Bowl, pp 3-97 (skim remainder if you have time)

Conrat, The American Farm, 124-57, 190-221 (study photos)

Pinchot, The Fight for Conservation (X, 588-611)

Muir, "Yosemite" (X, 612-25)

Olney, "Water Supply for the Cities about San Francisco Bay" (X, 626-29)

Parsons, "Proposed Destruction of Hetch-Hetchy" (X, 630-40)

Knapp, "The Other Side of Conservation" (X, 641-50)

EXTRACURRICULAR

Two events this week are highly relevant to the course, and if you can possibly attend either, you will certainly benefit from doing so. At 4:00 P.M. on November 9, 10, and 11, I'll be delivering the History Department's annual Curti Lectures on the subject, "Many Wests: The Search for a Common American Past," exploring Turner's legacy and the continuing utility of frontier and region for American history. Then, on Friday and Saturday, November 12 and 13, a major conference on frontier history will be held at the State Historical Society, with some of the best western historians in the nation delivering lectures for a broad popular audience. Several of the lectures are on the myth of the frontier, and hence are directly relevant to the final paper for this course. This is an unusual opportunity for students to hear leading scholars discuss their work, and I hope many of you will take advantage of it. I'll pass out schedules in class; both the Curti lectures and the conference will be held in the Auditorium on the first floor of the State Historical Society.

WEEK 12: IMAGINING THE WEST

Nov. 16: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

Nov. 16: Landscape and Myth, Frontiers and Heroes

REAW: Don't be intimidated by this list--it contains all the images and image-makers relevant to this week, and it's mainly here for your wandering delight. How many of these folks have you heard of? Don't feel you have to look at more than a fraction of these: keep track of the capitals and asterisks and you won't go crazy. Artists of western surveys; H. H. Bancroft; P.T Barnum; Roy Bean; Ambrose Bierce; Albert Bierstadt; *Billy the Kid; Black Bart; Herbert Eugene Bolton; Bonnie & Clyde; Kit Carson; Butch Cassidy; Willa Cather; Calamity Jane; Walter Van Tilburg Clark; CODY, BUFFALO BILL; *James Fenimore Cooper; COWBOY; cowboy clothing; Edward S. Curtis; Dalton Gang; DIME NOVELS; *Earp Brothers; Mary Hallock Foote; gambling; Pat Garrett; Zane Grey; A. B. Guthrie; Bret Harte; Wild Bill Hickok; Doc Holliday; Emerson Hough; *humor; *Indian captivity narratives; William H. Jackson; Jesse James; Will James; law and order; Larry McMurtry; federal marshal; Bat Masterson; *Karl May; Joaquin Miller; Thomas Moran; MUSIC, WESTERN; MUSIC ABOUT THE WEST; National Cowboy Hall of Fame; John G. Neihardt; *Frank Norris; NOVEL, WESTERN; Annie Oakley; PHOTOGRAPHY; Henry Plummer; prints; *Frederic Remington; Eugene M. Rhodes; John Ringo; RODEO; Will Rogers; O. E. Rolvaag; THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Charles M. Russell; Belle Starr; Wallace Stegner; WILD WEST SHOW; *Owen Wister.

Nov. 17: Evening Film: THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE (required)

Nov. 18: Hollywood's West

REAW: Walt Disney; FILMS, WESTERN; MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY; RADIO AND TELEVISION, WESTERNS ON.

SECTION: Turner, "Selections" (X, 1-14)

Cody, Life of Buffalo Bill (X, 695-25)

Roosevelt, Ranch Life and the Hunting-Trail (X, 724-45)

Twain, "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses" (X, 746-57)

WEEK 13: UN-VANISHING RACE

Nov. 23: Settling with Indians

REAW: JOHN COLLIER; INDIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU; INDIAN POWER MOVEMENT; **U.S. INDIAN POLICY, 1920-PRESENT.

SECTION: Collier, "Talk" (X, 685-89)

Eastman, "Does Uncle Sam Foster Paganism?" (X, 690-91)

Collier, "Reply" (X, 692-94)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: All four-credit students should submit a one-page summary of their final paper in lecture.

THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK)

WEEK 14: TRANSFORMATIONS OF WAR

Nov. 30: Airplanes and Internments

REAW: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY; *airplanes; *Boeing Airplane Co.; Howard Hughes; JAPANESE-AMERICANS; JAPANESE IMMIGRATION; *Henry Kaiser.

Dec. 2: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

Dec. 2: A FAMILY GATHERING (In-Class Screening)

SECTION: McClatchy, "Japanese or Whites?" (X, 758-65)

Japanese Removal Orders (X, 766-67)

Douglas, "One Big Assembly Line" (X, 768-73)

"Toddwomen Promise to Obey Safety Rules" (X, 774)

Field, "Boom Town Girls" (X, 775-78)

WEEK 15: AN URBAN LAND

Dec. 7: Power Shift: Metropolis West

REAW: *California; CITIES, GROWTH OF; Amadeo P. Giannini; *Houston; *Las Vegas; LOS ANGELES; ROADS AND HIGHWAYS; SAN FRANCISCO; TOURIST TRAVEL.

Dec. 9: Black Gold

REAW: Albert Fall; OIL INDUSTRY; URANIUM MINING.

SECTION: Matson, "William Mulholland" (X, 779-90)

East, "Los Angeles Streets: The Circulatory System" (X, 791-99)

Ford, "The Fight Against Smog" (X, 800-805)

WEEK 16: WHITHER THE WEST?

Dec. 14: Recapitulating the Final Frontier: Alaska

REAW: ALASKA; Alaska Purchase.

SECTION: McPhee, Coming Into the Country. Please note: you are almost certainly not in the mood to read all of this very long book so late in the semester (with a final paper coming due, no less!). But don't skip the whole book: it links most of our familiar themes with a state which many regard as "the last frontier". Unless you've scheduled time to read the whole book earlier in the semester, you'll be well advised to limit yourself to the following excerpts: pp. 27-38, 76-86, 97-106, 124-9, 141-6, 175-83, 191-6, 205-45, 276-99, 359-99. (That's a little over 150 pages.)

Dec. 15: Optional Lunch at Memorial Union for Interested Students

REMEMBER: Your final paper is due AT THE FINAL LECTURE this week!! DO NOT BE LATE!!

Dec. 19 (Sunday night): EVENING REVIEW SESSION, 7:00-8:30 P.M. (optional, but strongly encouraged)

Dec. 21: FINAL EXAM, 7:45 A.M.