

THE FRONTIER IN AMERICAN CULTURE HIS 324-01

Spring 2011 • TR 1100-1215 • MHRA 2209



Instructor: James Findley
Email: jwfindle@uncg.edu
Office: MHRA 3103
Office Hours: 1230-1400

Course Description:

This semester we will be using primary sources and secondary sources to examine the frontier in American culture from early settlement to the twentieth century. Primary sources are objects from the past or testimony concerning the past on which historians depend in order to create their own depiction of that past. Secondary sources are written after the period under discussion and generally employ analysis, synthesis, and interpretation. Topics include race, gender, ethnicity, and popular culture.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify and describe key periods and events in the history of the American frontier.
- Differentiate between the “reality” and the “myth” of the frontier.
- Evaluate the symbolic meaning of the frontier for different generations of Americans.
- Study the frontier as a time, place, and idea.

Required Texts:

Etulain, Richard R. *Does the Frontier Experience Make America Exceptional?* Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

Johnson, Marilyn S. *Violence in the West: The Johnson County Range War and the Ludlow Massacre : a Brief History with Documents.* Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

Ronda, James P. *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Rowlandson, Mary White, and Neal Salisbury. *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God: Together with the Faithfulness of His Promises Displayed : Being a Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson and Related Documents*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1997.

Steele, Ian Kenneth. *Warpaths: Invasions of North America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Blackboard:

Roosevelt, Theodore. *The Roosevelt Book: Selections from the Writings of Theodore Roosevelt*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1904.

Wister, Owen. *The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1902.

Academic Integrity:

You shall abide by UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. Failure to do so will result in failing the class and a referral to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism from the Internet is of great concern. Lecture notes and assigned readings will provide sufficient information to complete all assignments. For specific questions about UNCG's academic integrity policy, please refer to <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

Attendance:

You may be failed or dropped from the class if you have five or more absences.

Communication:

Communication outside of class shall be conducted via UNCG email and Blackboard. Having an active UNCG email account and checking it regularly is required.

Grading Breakdown:

Item	Value	Date	Class No.
Paper 1	10%	1/25/11	5
Paper 2	10%	2/17/11	13
Midterm	20%	3/3/11	17
Reflection Paper	10%	3/24/11	21
Paper 3	10%	4/21/11	29
Final	25%	4/28/11	30
Participation	15%	all	all

Unit 1: Defining Frontier

Week 1

Class 1: Tuesday 1/11/11 Introduction

Class 2: Thursday 1/13/11 Frederick Jackson Turner

Reading due: Richard W. Etulain “The Frontier and American Exceptionalism” and Frederick Jackson Turner “The Significance of the Frontier in American History in Etulain, 3-40.

Week 2

Class 3: Tuesday 1/18/11 Hunter and Farmer

Reading due: Theodore Roosevelt, “The Pioneer,” “Frontier Character” and “Daniel Boone” in *The Roosevelt Book*, 37-66 (on Blackboard), and Martin Ridge “The Life of an Idea,” in Etulain, 73-85.

Class 4: Thursday 1/20/11 Western History

Reading due: Donald Worster “New West, True West,” and Patricia Nelson Limerick “Western History” in Etulain, 73-128.

Unit 2: Colonial Frontiers

Week 3

Class 5: Tuesday 1/25/11 Spanish America

Reading due: Ian K. Steele, *Warpaths* 3-36.

Paper 1 due

Class 6: Thursday 1/27/11 French America

Reading due: Steele, 59-79.

Week 4

Class 7: Tuesday 2/1/11 The Chesapeake

Reading due: Steele, 37-58.

Class 8: Thursday 2/3/11 New England

Reading due: Steele, 80-109.

Week 5

Class 10: Tuesday 2/8/11 Captive Narratives

Reading due: Rowlandson and Salisbury, 1-112.

Class 11: Thursday 2/10/11 Captive Narratives
Reading due: Salisbury, 113-168.

Week 6

Class 12: Tuesday 2/15/11 To the Mississippi
Reading due: Steele, 131-206.

Class 13: Thursday 2/17/11 Beyond the Mississippi
Paper 2 due

Unit 3: Revolutionary Frontiers

Week 7

Class 14: Tuesday 2/22/11 French and Indian War
Reading Due: Steele, 207-247.

Class 15: Thursday 2/24/11 American Revolution

Week 8

Class 16: Tuesday 3/1/11 American Revolution

Class 17: Thursday 3/3/11 **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

Tuesday 3/8/11 No Class
Thursday 3/10/11 No Class

Unit 4: Expanding Frontiers

Week 10

Class 18: Tuesday 3/15/11 The Pacific and the Corps of Discovery
Reading due: Ronda, xi-66.

Class 19: Thursday 3/17/11 Corps of Discovery
Reading due: Ronda, 67-162.

Week 11

Class 20: Tuesday 3/22/11 Corps of Discovery
Reading due: Ronda, 163-259.

Class 21: Thursday 3/24/11 Leatherstocking and Daniel Boone
Reflection Paper due

Week 12

Class 22: Tuesday 3/29/11 Tecumseh and King Cotton

Class 23: Thursday 3/31/11 Mexican War

Unit 5: The Incorporation of the West

Week 13

Class 24: Tuesday 4/5/11 Rendezvous

Class 25: Thursday 4/7/11 Cities, mines, and factory farms
Reading due: Johnson, 1-35.

Week 14

Class 26: Tuesday 4/12/11 Cities, mines, and factory farms and the Wild West show
Reading due: Johnson 37-81.

Class 27: Thursday 4/14/11 *The Virginian*
Reading due: Wister, vii-252.

Week 15

Class 28: Tuesday 4/19/11 *The Virginian*
Reading due: Wister, 252-504.

Class 29: Thursday 4/21/11 Conclusion
Paper 3 Due

Week 16

Thursday 4/28/11 **Final Exam** 1200-1500