

Seminar in Teaching American History
Western Expansion and Life on The American Frontier
Spring 2006 - Mount Wachusett Community College
Dr. Laura Baker

READING LIST

Richard White, "Western History" (American Historical Association, 1997).
Clyde Milner, et al, eds. *Major Problems in the History of the American West* (2nd edition, 1997).
Albert L. Hurtado and Peter Iverson, eds., *Major Problems in American Indian History* (2nd edition, 2000).
Retrieving the American Past: Westward Expansion and Life on the Frontier (2005).
Patricia Nelson Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (1987).
Lillian Schlissel, *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey* (expanded edition, 1992).
J.S. Holliday, *The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience* (1981).
Robert Utley, *High Noon in Lincoln: Violence on the Western Frontier* (1987).
Jack Schaefer, *Shane* (1949).
Richard White, *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River* (1996).

READING SCHEDULE (subject to change)

1. Tuesday, Jan. 24: Conceptualizing the West

Richard White, "Western History" (AHA pamphlet)

Milner, ch. 1: "Defining the West and Its History"

Turner, "The significance of the Frontier in American History," & "The Problem of the West"

Webb, "The Great Plains"

Limerick, "The Legacy of Conquest" and "What on Earth is the New Western History?"

Cronon, "Revising the Vanishing Frontier: The Legacy of Turner"

Worster, "New West, True West: Interpreting the Region's History"

Limerick, Introduction & ch. 1

2. Tuesday, Jan 31: The U.S. Looks West

Retrieving the American Past (RTAP), "Lewis & Clark"

Milner, selections from chs. 4 & 5

Hurtado, selections from ch. 8

3. Tuesday, Feb. 7: Getting There: The Overland Trail

Schlissel, Introduction, "Families in Transit I, 1841-1850," & all of the diaries

February 14 and 21: Project Preparation – no class meetings

4. Tuesday, Feb. 28: The Gold Rush and the Mining Frontier

Limerick, ch. 4

Holliday, Preface, Prologue, ch. 1 & chs. 10 - 13

5. Tuesday, March 7: Western Violence

Utley, *High Noon in Lincoln: Violence on the Western Frontier* (entire book)

6. SATURDAY, March 18: The Mythology of Western Violence
Schaefer, *Shane* (entire book)

7. Tuesday, March 21: Resistance and Accommodation on the Plains
Limerick, ch. 6
Hurtado, selections from chs. 9 - 11
Milner, selections from ch. 10

8. Tuesday, March 28: New Perspectives on the Old West
Limerick, chs. 2, 3, 7 & 8
Milner, selections from ch. 8

Tuesday, April 4 and 11: Project Preparation – no class meeting

9. Tuesday, April 25: The West in the Twentieth Century, Part 1
Limerick, chs. 5 & 10
Milner, selections from ch. 11
Hurtado, ch. 12 & selections from ch. 14

10. Tuesday, May 2: The West in the Twentieth Century, Part 2
White, *Organic Machine* (entire book)

11. Tuesday, May 9: Best Practices Sharing