WRTG 3020-033: Myths of the American West
Fall 2004

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In this class we will work on improving your writing and critical thinking skills while examining this place we live in, the American West. Our goal is to write clear, compelling, grammatically sound papers that cogently address the myths and realities of the West.

TEXTS:
1) Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest
2) Diana Hacker, A Writer's Reference (Bedford Press, 5th edition)
3) A novel by Zane Grey and a Western movie
4) Articles on Norlin's e-reserve and by the Center of the American West (ucblibraries.colorado.edu & www.centerwest.org)
5) See PRIMARY TEXT below

WORK: a book review, a movie review, an analysis, and an argumentative paper, a short paper (not reviewed in class), reading quizzes, grammar worksheets, peer critiques, and attendance and participation

Grading breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>diagnostic writing</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center of the American West event review</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>book review</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>movie review</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>persuasive paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>reading quizzes, grammar worksheets, &amp; in-class writings</td>
<td>10 (averaged)</td>
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<tr>
<td>critiques of your colleagues' papers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attendance/participation</td>
<td>5 (SEE ATTENDANCE POLICY BELOW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</td>
<td>100</td>
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ATTENDANCE POLICY: This class depends on student participation, which requires that you attend class. So I have an attendance policy: each absence after THREE ABSENCES will drop your attendance score. If you miss 6 times, you will receive a zero for attendance/participation. If you miss 7 times or more, you will receive a zero for your critique score as well (meaning you will lose 10 points). Late arrival to class times will constitute one absence. If you are absent, you are responsible for learning what you missed.

PRIMARY TEXT AND WORKSHOP FORMAT: This class is conducted as a workshop, thus most days we will work collectively on individual student papers. Drafts are usually due the class period BEFORE it is to be reviewed. You must give me at least two versions of a paper in order for you to receive a grade on that paper. If you consistently do not hand in drafts on time, I will deduct points from your grade on that paper. Keep all drafts of your papers with my comments on them; you or I may want to refer back to them. Every paper you hand in to me should be typed, double-spaced, and, if necessary, stapled. No title pages, please. AND RECYCLE! THERE ARE RECYCLING BINS EVERYWHERE ON CAMPUS.

THE SHORT PAPER ON A CENTER OF THE AMERICAN WEST EVENT: Some time this semester, please attend an event put on by the Center of the American West, then write a review of that event (this review will not be workshopped in class). The paper is due Wednesday, December 1st. The paper should be 2-3 pages long.

ON PAPERS TURNED IN FOR A GRADE: I reserve the right not to accept late papers that have no documented reason for being late. If I do accept your undocumented late paper, your grade will drop one full letter for each weekday it is overdue. You will receive a grade only on the final draft of each paper.

PLAGIARISM: If I catch you plagiarizing, you will receive an F for that paper; if the plagiarism is particularly egregious (e.g., a full paper downloaded from the Web or if somebody else writes your paper for you, for pay or for free), you will flunk the course. I will report anyone who plagiarizes to the Honor Code Council. Be aware that I use online plagiarism search engines to investigate any text that appears plagiarized. A reminder: plagiarism is grounds for expulsion from CU.

IMPORTANT NOTES: CU and the Program for Writing and Rhetoric make every effort to work with students’ needs. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disabilities Services during the first two weeks of class so that your needs can be addressed. Disabilities Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303/492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices). If you need to miss class for religious reasons, please let me know so you are not counted absent for that day and so we can figure out a new due date/quiz date if necessary.
FINAL NOTES: I may ask you to read other articles or to do worksheets or quizzes that are not listed below. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class; they cannot be taken at any other time unless you have an awfully good excuse.

8/23 introduction to the course, each other and the Western story; find and start reading Zane Grey book; first essay assignment
8/25 more introduction to the course; diagnostic writing

8/30 grammar quiz and discussion
9/1 OUTLINE OF ZANE GREY BOOK DUE (2 pages); first essay assignment

9/6 Labor Day—no class
9/8 BRING 19 COPIES OF BOOK REVIEW TO CLASS; paper exchange; Revising Prose video; worksheets in class

9/13 workshop book reviews; quiz on American West piece, “What Every Westerner Should Know about Energy”
9/15 workshop book reviews

9/20 BOOK REVIEW DUE; watch Shane; quiz on American West piece, “Boom and Bust in the American West”
Meet in Norlin Library Media Library, large conference room
9/22 rest of Shane; movie review assignment
Meet in Norlin Library Media Library, large conference room
9/24 FRIDAY: CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH OF MOVIE REVIEW DUE IN MY MAILBOX (or email if you have to)

9/27 bring 18 copies of controlling paragraph to class; paper exchange; workshop paragraphs
9/29 workshop paragraphs; quiz on Jacques Leslie

10/4 workshop full drafts
10/6 workshop full drafts; quiz on Jared Diamond

10/11 MOVIE REVIEW DUE; analytical assignment
10/13 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; Harper's Index and inference discussion

10/18 workshop controlling paragraphs
10/20 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Marc Reisner readings

10/25 workshop revised controlling paragraphs
10/27 workshop revised controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy of Conquest, introduction and chapter 1

11/1 workshop full drafts
11/2 TUESDAY: ELECTION DAY—NO OFFICE HOURS. GO VOTE!
11/3 workshop full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 2 & 3
11/4 Thursday: Office hours, 9-11; 2-4

11/8 ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; argumentative paper assignment
11/10 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE; quiz on Legacy, chapters 4 & 5

11/15 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy, chapters 6
11/17 workshop controlling paragraphs

11/22 workshop revised controlling paragraphs
11/24 catch a Western; full drafts due
Meet in Norlin Library Media Library, large conference room

11/29 workshop full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 7 & 8
12/1 workshop full drafts; AMERICAN WEST EVENT REVIEW DUE

12/6 workshop revised full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 9 & 10
12/8 ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE; Cadillac Desert video