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. To improve your writing skills, we will exercise your writing and reading “muscles,” just as some of you regularly exercise your triceps.

TEXTS:
1) Patricia Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest*
3) A novel by Zane Grey
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

FILMS: You are required to see the following films. All of these films are available at Video Station, 1661 28th Street
*Shane* (1953), directed by George Stevens (SHOWN IN CLASS—also on reserve at Norlin Media Library)
*Ox-Bow Incident* (1943), directed by William Wellman
*High Noon* (1952), directed by Fred Zinneman (on reserve at Norlin Media Library)
*The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962), directed by John Ford (on reserve at Norlin Media Library)
*True Grit* (1969), directed by Henry Hathaway
*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), directed by George Roy Hill (on reserve at Norlin Media Library)
*McCabe and Mrs. Miller* (1971), directed by Robert Altman

WORK and GRADING BREAKDOWN:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>diagnostic writing</td>
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<td>extracurricular event review</td>
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<tr>
<td>presentation on a Western mythic figure</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>movie summary and analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>book summary and analysis</td>
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<td>longer analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>argumentative research paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>reading quizzes, grammar worksheets, &amp; in-class writings</td>
<td>10 (averaged)</td>
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<td>critiques of your colleagues’ papers</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>attendance/participation</td>
<td>5 (see attendance policy below)</td>
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<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 3 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. **You must give me at least two versions of a paper in order for you to receive a 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 EXTRACURRICULAR EVENT REVIEW: Some time this semester, please attend an event put on by the Center of the American West or some other approved event that has to do with the West, then write a review of that event (this review will not be workshopped in class). The paper is due Wednesday, April 20th. The paper should be 2-3 pages long.

PRESENTATION ON A MYTHIC WESTERN FIGURE: For this assignment, you will research a famous Western figure and give a short presentation on him or her (5 minutes). You must hand in your sources (you need to use at least 3 sources), and you must consult at least one published book. I will hand out a sign-up sheet for presentations early in the semester.

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.
POLICY ON CHEATING: If I catch you plagiarizing in part of an essay, you will receive an F for that paper. If you plagiarize for more than a third of your paper (e.g., a full paper downloaded from the Web or if somebody else writes much of 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. Please learn more about plagiarism and CU’s policies in regard to cheating at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorc ode/.

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). Also, 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 NOTE: I may ask you to read other articles or to do worksheets or quizzes that are not listed below. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class—you cannot take them at another time without an awfully good excuse.

1/10 introduction to the course, each other and the Western story
1/12 more introduction to the course; diagnostic writing; first essay assignment; start reading your assigned Zane Grey book

1/17 NO CLASS: Honor Martin Luther King Day
1/19 watch Shane in class (meet in Norlin Library Media Library); quiz on Marc Reisner readings

1/24 watch rest of Shane (meet in Norlin Library Media Library); quiz on Legacy of Conquest, introduction and chapter 1
1/26 MOVIE PAPER DRAFTS DUE; grammar quiz and discussion

1/31 workshop movie papers; quiz on Legacy, chapters 2 & 3
2/2 workshop movie papers

2/7 Revising Prose video; worksheets; quiz on Legacy, chapters 4 & 5
2/9 MOVIE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE; book summary and analysis assignment
2/11 FRIDAY: CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH OF BOOK REVIEW DUE IN MY MAILBOX (or email if you have to)

2/14 workshop controlling paragraphs of book summary and analysis; quiz on Legacy of Conquest, chapter 6
2/16 workshop controlling paragraphs

2/21 workshop full drafts of book summary and analysis; quiz on “Boom and Bust in the American West”
2/23 workshop full drafts

2/28 BOOK SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE; analytical paper assignment
3/2 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; Harper's Index and inference discussion

3/7 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Jared Diamond, “The Last Americans”
3/9 workshop controlling paragraphs

3/14 workshop revised controlling paragraphs; quiz on “What Every Westerner Should Know about Energy”
3/16 workshop full drafts of analytical paper

3/21-3/25 SPRING BREAK

3/28 workshop full drafts
3/30 workshop full drafts; quiz on Jacques Leslie, “Running Dry”

4/4 ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; argumentative research paper assignment
4/6 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE

4/11 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy, chapters 7 & 8
4/13 workshop controlling paragraphs

4/18 workshop full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 9 & 10
4/20 workshop full drafts, AMERICAN WEST EVENT REVIEW DUE

4/25 workshop full drafts
4/27 ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE