Dr. Rebecca Dickson  
Office: Environmental Design 1B76  
M/W 4:30-5:45 MUEN E123  
Phone: 303/735-4908  
Mailbox: Env. Design Room 1B62  
e-mail: rebecca.dickson@colorado.edu

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, mechanically sound papers that cogently address the myths and realities of the West. We'll also look at how the myth of the West has affected the US and world. As we do all this, we'll be considering various writers' rhetorical strategies while pondering our own choices as writers.

TEXTS:
1) Patricia Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest*
3) A Western movie
4) A Western novel
5) Articles on Norlin’s e-reserve and by the Center of the American West (ucblibraries.colorado.edu & www.centerwest.org)

FILMS: *Shane* (1953), directed by George Stevens. This will be shown in class; it’s also available at Norlin Media Library.
You are required to see and write about one of the following films. All of these films are available at Video Station, 1661 28th Street.

*Arizona* (1940)  
*Ox-Bow Incident* (1943)

*High Noon* (1952)  
The Big Country (1958)

*The Magnificent Seven* (1960)  
*The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962)

*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* (1966)  
*Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968)

*True Grit* (1969)  
*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969)

*McCabe and Mrs. Miller* (1971)  
*Electric Horseman* (1979)

*Unforgiven* (1992)  
*The Horse Whisperer* (1998)

*Brokeback Mountain* (2005—not yet available for home rental)

WORK AND GRADING BREAKDOWN:

diagnostic writing  
extracurricular event review  
presentation on Western movie  
presentation on Western book  
movie summary and analysis  
book summary and analysis  
argumentative research paper  
longer analysis  
reading quizzes, grammar worksheets, & in-class writings  
critiques of your colleagues’ papers  
attendance/participation

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 100 points

ATTENDANCE POLICY: If you don’t attend class, you won’t get much from the course and you’ll likely get a disappointing grade. So I have an attendance policy: each absence after 3 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 finding out what you missed.

DRAFTING PROCESS AND WORKSHOP FORMAT: In this class we will often be working collectively on your 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.

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 late paper that has no documented reason for being late, 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 a paper, you will receive an F for that paper; if you plagiarize half or more on a paper (e.g., a full paper downloaded from the Web or if somebody else writes half 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). 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.

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 (we will not go over the extracurricular paper in class). The paper is due Wednesday, April 26th. Please do not confuse "extracurricular" with "extra credit"—this paper is REQUIRED and is worth 3 points. Suggested page length of the extracurricular paper: 3 pages.

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.

1/18 introduction to the course, the Western story, and our writing goals; first essay assignment
1/23 more introduction; diagnostic writing; start reading your Western novel
1/25 watch Shane in class (meet in Norlin Library Media Library)
1/30 watch rest of Shane (meet in TB1, room 211); quiz on Legacy of Conquest, introduction and chapter 1
2/1 MOVIE PAPER DRAFTS DUE; grammar quiz and discussion; student presentations on movies
2/6 student presentations on movies; workshop movie papers; quiz on Legacy, chapters 2 & 3
2/8 student presentations on movies; workshop movie papers
2/13 Revising Prose video (meet in TB1, room 211); worksheets; quiz on Legacy, chapters 4 & 5
2/15 MOVIE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE; book summary and analysis assignment
2/17 FRIDAY: CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH OF BOOK REVIEW DUE IN MY MAILBOX by 4:30 pm
2/20 student presentations on books; workshop controlling paragraphs of book analysis; quiz on Legacy of Conquest, chapter 6
2/22 student presentations on books; workshop controlling paragraphs
2/27 workshop full drafts of book summary and analysis; quiz on “Boom and Bust in the American West”
3/1 workshop full drafts
3/6 BOOK SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE; analytical paper assignment
3/8 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; Harper's Index and inference discussion
3/13 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Jared Diamond, “The Last Americans”
3/15 workshop controlling paragraphs
3/20 workshop revised controlling paragraphs; quiz on “What Every Westerner Should Know about Energy”
3/22 workshop full drafts of analytical paper
3/27-3/31 SPRING BREAK
4/3 workshop full drafts
4/5 workshop full drafts; quiz on Jacques Leslie, “Running Dry”
4/10 ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE; argumentative research paper assignment
4/12 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE
4/17 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy, chapters 7 & 8
4/19 workshop controlling paragraphs
4/24 workshop full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 9 & 10
4/26 workshop full drafts, AMERICAN WEST EVENT REVIEW DUE
5/1 workshop full drafts
5/3 ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE