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 consider various writers’ rhetorical strategies while pondering our own choices as writers.

TEXTS:
1) Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest (revised edition)
2) Diana Hacker, A Writer’s Reference (Bedford Press, 5th edition)
3) Many Western movies—see below
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 on reserve at Norlin Media Library. You are required to see the following films. All of these films are available at Video Station, 1661 28th Street. I will show all of them at Norlin Library, and a number of them will be on reserve at Norlin. THERE WILL BE A TEST ON THESE FILMS.

High Noon (1952) The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (1966)
Ox-Box Incident (1943) McCabe and Mrs. Miller (1971)

WORK and GRADING BREAKDOWN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>diagnostic writing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>movie tests</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presentation on a Western book</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>movie summary and analysis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>book summary and analysis</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analytical research paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argumentative paper</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extracurricular event paper</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reading quizzes, grammar worksheets, &amp; in-class writings</td>
<td>10 (averaged)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critiques of your colleagues’ papers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attendance/participation</td>
<td>5 (see attendance policy below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 learn that you have plagiarized any part of a paper, you will receive an F for that paper. If 50 percent or more of a paper is plagiarized (e.g., a 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 use online plagiarism search engines to detect cheating, and I will report all cheaters to CU’s Honor Code Council. 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 determine new due dates if necessary.

BOOK PRESENTATION: With at least one other person, you will tell the class about the Western novel that you have read. Give a brief plot synopsis, then explain how the book connects to themes we’ve discussed in class. The presentation is worth 3 points.

EXTRACURRICULAR PAPER: 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 25th and is worth 5 points. Suggested page length of the extracurricular paper: 3-4 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.

1/17 introduction to the course and the Western story; first essay assignment

1/22 more introduction; diagnostic writing; start reading your Western novel
1/24 watch Shane in class (meet in Norlin Library Media Library); quiz on Legacy of Conquest, introduction and chapter 1

1/29 watch rest of Shane (meet in Norlin Library Media Library); quiz on Legacy, chapters 2 and 3
1/31 MOVIE PAPER DRAFTS DUE; MOVIE TEST; grammar quiz and discussion

2/5 workshop movie papers; quiz on Legacy, chapters 4 and 5
2/7 workshop movie papers

2/12 Revising Prose video; worksheets; quiz on “Boom and Bust in the American West”
2/14 book summary and analysis assignment
2/16 FRIDAY: MOVIE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE IN MY MAILBOX by 4:30 pm

2/19 BY 9:00 am: CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH OF BOOK REVIEW DUE IN MY MAILBOX
2/19 IN CLASS: workshop controlling paragraphs of book summary and analysis
2/21 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy of Conquest, chapter 6

2/26 workshop full drafts of book summary and analysis; quiz on “Western Futures”
2/28 workshop full drafts

3/5 BOOK SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS DUE; analytical paper assignment
3/7 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE; Harper’s Index and inference discussion

3/12 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Jared Diamond, “The Last Americans”
3/14 workshop controlling paragraphs

3/19 workshop revised controlling paragraphs; quiz on “What Every Westerner Should Know about Energy”
3/21 workshop full drafts of analytical paper
3/23 FRIDAY: REVISED FULL DRAFTS OF ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN MY MAILBOX

3/26-3/30 SPRING BREAK

4/2 workshop full drafts
4/4 workshop full drafts; quiz on Jacques Leslie, “Running Dry”

4/9 ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE; argumentative paper assignment
4/11 CONTROLLING PARAGRAPH FOR ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE

4/16 workshop controlling paragraphs; quiz on Legacy, chapters 7 and 8
4/18 workshop controlling paragraphs

4/23 workshop full drafts; quiz on Legacy, chapters 9 and 10
4/25 workshop full drafts, AMERICAN WEST EVENT REVIEW DUE

4/30 workshop full drafts
5/2 ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER DUE