

American Regionalism: The West 050.203

Fall 2014
TTH 2:15-3:35, RAB207
Professor Louise Barnett
Office 205C
Office Hours: Th 10:00-12:00 and by appointment
e-mail: lkb@rci.rutgers.edu

Description

American Regionalism: the West will primarily examine the classic Western film and read some American writers about the West.

Goals

Students will see and analyze some of the greatest Westerns of this once enormously popular film genre, read a Western novel and a Native American novel, and study some short prose texts. They will improve their abilities to see and read analytically and write short papers. They will also acquire knowledge of the American West in its frontier period and in our own time, its diverse population and cultures, and its often dramatic history.

Core Goal

This course satisfies AHP: "Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies."

Texts

Short readings will be posted on our sakai site. However, I have ordered the following paperbacks at the Rutgers University Bookstore and New Jersey Books:

Charles Portis, *True Grit*, Overlook Press. ISBN 978-1-59020-459-7

Louis Owens, *Nightland*, University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN 0-8061-3373-2

Films for the course will be on reserve at the Douglass Library Media Center for a two-week period only: a week before our class discussion and a week after.

Requirements

Strong attendance and class participation are essential. When we are

working on a written text, you must always bring it to class.

If you miss a class, please use the [University absence reporting website](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence.

An email will be automatically sent to me.

**Prolonged absence or numerous absences will make it impossible to receive credit for the course.

Students are expected to know and observe the university's standards of academic integrity in all coursework. Please familiarize yourself with <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Papers must be handed in on time or an extension agreed to by the instructor. Missed assignments cannot be handed in during the last week of class.

There will be a number of short in-class writing assignments as well as two short out-of-class papers, which--along with attendance and participation--will account for the classwork portion of your course grade. **In-class writing cannot be made up.** There will also be two examinations, each covering roughly half of the course material.

Cell phones must be turned off in class.

Evaluation

Classwork 50%

First Exam 25%

Second Exam 25%

Tentative* Schedule of Assignments

050.203

September

2	Introduction
4	Jane Tompkins, "Women and the Language of Men"
9	<i>Stagecoach</i> (98 minutes)
11	Discussion of <i>Stagecoach</i>
16	<i>Shane</i> (117)
18	Bob Baker, "Shane through Five Decades"*

23	<i>My Darling Clementine</i> (117)
25	" <i>My Darling Clementine</i> and the Fight with Film Noir"*
	First out-of-class paper due
30	<i>Johnny Guitar</i> (110)
October	
2	V. F. Perkins, "Johnny Guitar"*
7	<i>The Magnificent Seven</i> (128)
9	discussion of <i>The Magnificent Seven</i>
14	first examination
16	<i>High Noon</i> (85)
21	Mark Twain, excerpts from <i>Roughing It</i> *
23	Twain on the Mormons*
28	<i>The Searchers</i>
30	Geoffrey O'Brien, "Implacable in Texas"*
November	
4	<i>True Grit</i> (Overlook Press edition, 2010): up to p. 79
6	pp. 79-155
11	pp. 156-235
13	film <i>True Grit</i> (110); second out-of-class paper due
18	Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain"
20	<i>Smoke Signals</i> (89)
25	<i>Nightland</i> , chs. 1-6
December	
2	chs. 7-22
4	chs. 23-33
9	second exam (covering only the material examined after the first exam)

* It may be necessary to change this schedule. If so, I will give you as much advance notice as possible.