

Course Information

ENGL 5630 - Independent Study: Literature of the American West

Instructor: James Finley - james.finley@tamusa.edu

Meeting: Alternate Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, [Zoom](#)

Student hours: M 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Hall 328, and by appointment - please click [here](#) or send me an email.

Course Description

TBD

Learning Objectives. At the end of the course, students will have:

1. Developed a rich understanding of the Literature of the American West;
2. Gained experience and expertise in reading, writing, researching, and sharing ideas;
3. Produced a scholarly essay that contributes to the discipline.

Course Design and Assignments

Discussion board posts: By 12:00 pm on Wednesdays, please post a brief paragraph about what you found most interesting in that week's assigned reading. Please include at least one quotation (including a parenthetical citation) and at least a couple of sentences about what you found interesting about that passage. Discussion board posts will be graded out of 2 points.

Reflections: By the end of the following weeks we meet, please draft and revise a one to two page reflection. This assignment asks you to develop your thinking in a more sustained way than discussion board posts allow and to synthesize the points raised in our discussions, but without the expectations of a formal writing assignment. Reflections will be graded out of 4 points.

Final Project: The final project is a seminar paper, a roughly 12-18 page essay, about a text or texts of your choosing. A fuller assignment description will be posted to Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Readings not in the assigned books will be available through Blackboard

DATE	READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1	Pioneer/Early Nineteenth Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Oregon Trail</i> by Francis Parkman Jr. ● Discussion board 1
Week 2	"Manifest Destiny" and the Western <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>A New Home, Who'll Follow?</i> by Caroline M. Kirkland ● Discussion board 2
W 09-04	● Discussion
F 09-06	● Reflection 1
Week 3	Native Americans and the Western <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>North American Indians</i> by George Catlin ● Discussion board 3
Week 4	Non-Fiction and the American West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Empire of the Summer Moon</i> by S. C. Gwyne ● Discussion board 4
W 09-18	● Discussion