I. Course Title: The American West

II. Course Number: HIST 305

III. Credit Hours: 3

IV. Prerequisites: None

V. Catalog Description: This course is designed to examine the development of the region called the American West. We will discuss not only what happened in the West, but also how those events have been interpreted over time and how the myth of the West squares with reality. Many histories of the West deal overwhelmingly with the frontier period. This course will also spend ample time on the pre-American period and on the twentieth-century West.

VI. Curricular Relationships: This course is part of the elective block of U.S. History courses taken by History/Government majors and for students majoring in secondary licensure.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes: Students will acquire an understanding of the major events that have shaped the region, including the roles of major groups such as Native Americans, the Spanish, and Euro-American settlers. Students will read and learn about the major social and political events of the history of the American West. Each student will define key terms related to the region, and shall demonstrate an understanding of the interplay of major events through essay questions on written exams. The students will also become acquainted with the historical method by constructing monographic papers using primary and secondary sources. Each student will also become thoroughly familiar with the geography and cultural distinctiveness of the region.

VIII. Content Outline: The course is divided into thirds: the first covers the Precontact, Native American West, the Spanish entrada and settlement, and the Louisiana Purchase. The second deals the contest for the West and the settlement by Euro-Americans and the impact on Native American societies. The third deals with the development of the West in the 20th century, including the impact of large-scale governmental projects and urbanization.
IX. Course Procedures: There will be three exams, three papers of about five pages (two over the novels and one outside book review), and several outside assignments and quizzes, plus a participation grade for the discussions. Each exam and paper will be worth 100 points, the outside assignments worth 200 points, and the participation grade worth 100 points for a total of 900 points.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>810-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>720-809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>630-719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>540-629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X. Required/Recommended Readings:
- Colin Calloway, *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground: Plains Indian Views of How the West Wast Lost*.
- Mitchell Roth, *Reading the American West*.
- Edward Abbey, *Fire on the Mountain*.

XI. Any Issues Unique to this Course:

XII. Additional Issues of the Department's Choosing: