



PROPOSAL SCC #99/00- 209 <sup>(2)</sup>

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM 1999-2000

NON-GENERAL EDUCATION PROCESS A

DEADLINES: ~~Deadline~~ Dates for 1999/2000 submissions: Regular proposals: October 22, 1999 to be implemented in Fall 2000; Short-Term proposals: December 10, 1999 to be implemented in Fall, 2000; Regular proposals February 18, 2000 to be implemented in Spring, 2001; March 24, 2000 for short-term courses to be implemented in Spring 2001.

2205.303

PROPOSAL TITLE: HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

SPONSOR(S): WILLIAM D. CARRIGAN  
AND THE FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DEPARTMENT: HISTORY

COLLEGE: LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

IF LAS CHECK ONE:  History/Humanities     Math/Sciences     Social/Behavioral Sciences

Check one:  Undergraduate     Graduate

THE ATTACHED *NON-GEN-ED* PROPOSAL IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE ITEM(S) CHECKED.

New non-gen-ed course

Short-term non-gen-ed course

Minor curricular changes (fewer than three) to:

existing non-gen-ed course

non-gen-ed degree requirements

major

minor, specialization, concentration, track, certificate program

DEPARTMENT  
(Signature indicates approval)

Dept. Curriculum Chair / Date David Applebaum 2/25/00

Dept. Chairperson / Date Edward Wang 2/25/00

ACADEMIC DEAN

Approved     Not Approved     Comments:

Dean's Signature/Date Joy Hunter 3-3-00

**COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Date of open hearing (if necessary) 4/27/00 Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Signature of College Chair/Date: Barbara Patrick 4/27/00

**UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Date Received/Processed 7/19/00

Comments:

Curriculum Chair Signature

Walt D'Amico

Date Announced At Senate 7-20-00

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST**

Approved  Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_ If no, reasons are as follows:

Student Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Load Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Equalized Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Official Copy & Approval Sheet Filed (Date): \_\_\_\_\_

Executive VP/Provost Signature/Date C. L. Huson 7/26/00

**REGISTRAR**

Date Approved Course Description Received \_\_\_\_\_ Hegis Taxonomy & Course Number Assigned 2205. 303

Registrar Signature/Date Robert A. Kulot 8/7/00

**NOTIFICATION FORWARD**

\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Dean(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Department Chairpersons

\_\_\_\_\_ Registrar

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor(s)

COURSE TITLE: History of the American West 2205.303

SPONSOR: William D. Carrigan, History Department  
And the Faculty of the History Department

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE LEVEL: Undergraduate, 300-level.

CURRICULAR EFFECT: An undergraduate course on the History of the American West was approved by the Faculty Senate in 1978. In the intervening years, reductions in faculty lines and other considerations meant that the course could not be offered on a regular basis. The History Department proposes to revive the course and thus expand the upper division course offerings in American history.

PREREQUISITES: U.S. History to 1865 - 2205.150

SUGGESTED TIME AND SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION: One section to be offered biennially beginning in the spring of 2001.

ADEQUACY OF PRESENT RESOURCES: No additional staff or resources required.

RATIONALE: The American West — stretching from Texas to the Pacific Ocean — has recently emerged as one of the most important and dynamic regions in the nation. With the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the West has become a major meeting ground in the world's largest free trade zone, linking the markets of Mexico and the United States. The nation is entering a new frontier in the twenty-first century, one in which national borders are more fluid than at any time since Columbus disembarked in the New World. As this new era of economic and cultural contact emerges, historians are reminded of an earlier era when European colonists, African laborers, Asian immigrants, and indigenous peoples met, traded, and fought over the region. The history of this earlier frontier can provide important lessons as we catapult into this new era. In short, an historical examination of the complicated, multicultural world of the American West is both timely and constructive.

#### ESSENCE OF THE COURSE:

##### A. Objectives of the Course in Relation to Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- (1) demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the American West
- (2) decipher and evaluate primary source documents relating to the history of the region
- (3) critically analyze scholarly writings on the American West
- (4) display the analytical and writing skills necessary to bring historical evidence to bear upon the reconstruction of a series of past events.

B. Topical Outline of the Course:

- The Frontier in American History: Frederick Jackson Turner and His Critics
- Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Role of Geography in Continental Development
- First Peoples: The Native Americans of the Trans-Mississippi West
- In Search of Cíbola: Spanish Exploration and Conquest of the American West
- Unwilling Immigrants: Native Americans from the East enter the West
- The First Illegal Immigrants: Anglo Americans in the Mexican North
- Westering Women: Women and the Frontier Experience
- "Texas Must Be a Slave Country": The Texas Revolution
- "American Blood on American Soil": Manifest Destiny and the US-Mexican War
- The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush
- Law, Order, and White Supremacy: Vigilantism in the American West
- The Other Civil War: Anglo-Indian Conflicts from the 1860s to 1890
- Angry Farmers, Part One: The Populist Revolt
- When Sea to Shining Sea Wasn't Good Enough: The Spanish-American War
- Neither White Nor Black: Mexican Americans in the West
- Angry Farmers, Part Two: The Dust Bowl
- Shotgun Wedding: World War II and the Emergence of the Modern West
- Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Silicon Valley and the High Tech Industry
- Into the Wild: Alaska and the Image of the West as Wilderness
- Whither the West?: NAFTA and the Western Economy in the 21st Century

C. Students will be evaluated and graded on both their written work and class participation. Means of assessing student learning may include written examinations in class, formal written papers, oral reports, student projects, and class discussions.

D. Students completing the course will be asked to fill out the History Department's course evaluation form. The department will also evaluate the course as part of its regular curricular reviews.

**RESULTS OF CONSULTATION:** Professors Charles A. Stansfield, Maria A. Rosado, and Dianne Ashton were consulted. The reaction of all parties was positive. Letters of support are attached.



*Department of Geography and Anthropology*

February 22, 2000

Dr. William D. Carrigan  
History Department  
Rowan University

Dear Dr. Carrigan:

I appreciate the opportunity to review your course proposal titled "History of the American West." It is with great enthusiasm that I support and endorse your proposal. I believe this course to be an integral and essential part in American History studies as it will contribute to the understanding of the dynamics of interaction among different cultures of an earlier era. Your course also helps to understand the myriads of contributions of the respective cultures to the making of the American West and its history.

A very impressive aspect for me is that you devote a section to Native Americans. As you know I teach the anthropological course "Indians of North America." Our courses, then, will complement each other in ways that can only benefit our students as they explore in detail the multiethnic dimensions of the American West.

Thank you for the opportunity to read your proposal and I look forward to working with you in complementing our courses in the future.

Sincerely,

Maria A. Rosado

Assistant Professor of Anthropology



*Department of Geography and Anthropology*

February 22, 2000

Professor William D. Carrigan  
History Department  
Rowan University

Dear Professor Carrigan,

Your course proposal on the History of the American West is an excellent one; I support it with enthusiasm. As a one time History major myself, this is the kind of course which I would have taken eagerly. When teaching the Geography of US and Canada, I always open discussion of the American west with Walter Webb's seminal "Great Plains," as the changing images of the west long have been a special interest.

Best of luck with your new course. I'm sure it will become a popular asset to the History program.

Most Sincerely,

Charles A. Stansfield

cc:E.Wang  
D.Kasserman

*Letter of support received via email on February 22, 2000*

Dear Bill,

Your proposal for a new course, History of the American West, is timely and important. The American Studies specialization of Liberal Studies, which currently serves more than 160 majors, needs appropriately rigorous courses for its students.

The course you propose addresses the methodologies and themes we hope our students will learn. Because the course discusses both the historical west as experienced by many populations as well as the role of the frontier in the American imagination, it fits squarely within an American Studies program. It is an exciting course that I am sure our students will enjoy. More importantly, it is a demanding course which promises to expand students' east-coast view of American life. The topical outline indicates that the course will develop students' critical abilities while conveying knowledge about a significant aspect of American history.

I hope that your proposal quickly wins approval.

Best wishes,  
Dianne Ashton  
Coordinator of Liberal Studies  
Director of Advising for American Studies

Old Catalogue Description (1978-1979)

History of the American Old West (2205.282)

This course considers the settlement and economic development of the American West from 1540 to 1890, covered in topical sequence. Among the topics considered will be the fur trade, settlement of Texas and Oregon, Mormon migration, Mexican War, 49ers and the mining frontier, cowboys and cattlemen, the settling of the Great Plains, destruction of the great Indian civilizations, and the frontier in the American imagination.

New Catalogue Description

History of the American West (2205.382)

This course considers the settlement and economic development of the American West from the arrival of Europeans in the sixteenth century to the present. Among the topics considered will be: the role of the frontier in American history; the settlement of the region first by Native Americans and later by Europeans, Africans, and Asians; conflicts between Europeans and Native Americans; Manifest Destiny and American expansionism; the Gold Rush; vigilantism; women and the frontier experience; farming on the Great Plains; Mexican immigration; high technology and the economy of the modern West; and the frontier in the American imagination.