

**Final Exam Study Sheet**  
**History 1641: History of the U.S. West**  
**Professor Rachel St. John**  
**Fall 2005**

**Possible Essay Questions:**

Of these 10 possible essay questions, 4 will appear on the exam. Of those 4, you will choose 2 on which to write.

In preparing for and writing the exam, you should think broadly—both in terms of time and material. Most of the questions will ask you to synthesize materials drawn from the span of the course stretching from the arrival of Europeans in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and from lectures to course readings. This does NOT mean that you should attempt to summarize the entire course in responding to each question. Rather, each response should provide a clear argument (expressed in a thesis statement), be clearly organized, and use specific examples drawn from throughout the course and from a variety of course materials—lectures, texts, and, if appropriate, films.

Note that while you are encouraged to prepare outlines, thesis statements, and examples ahead of time, you will NOT be allowed to bring books or notes with you to the exam. For this reason you will not be expected to incorporate direct quotes or to cite the page number or lecture dates of the sources for your examples. However, you should be as specific as possible in your examples mentioning specific people, events, dates, texts, etc., whenever appropriate.

If you have any questions about the format or requirements of the exam or the wording of individual questions be sure to contact Professor St. John (stjohn@fas.harvard.edu) or Louis Hyman (lhyman@gmail.com) before the exam.

1. What we now know as the U.S. West has not always been American. How did the West become American? What does it mean to become American? Consider territory, government, culture, society, and economy.
2. Historian Patricia Nelson Limerick wrote, “. . . the history of the West is a study of a place undergoing conquest and never fully escaping its consequences.” To what extent is this quote an accurate description of western history? How is “conquest” a useful concept for understanding western history from the arrival of Europeans through the late 20th century?
3. Popular images of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century West have most often centered on the archetypes of self-made men and lone gunmen, however the history of the West has more often been a story of partnerships, families, and unions. Focusing on the history of westward migration and mining, discuss the importance of community and collective action in the West.
4. How did the process of western expansion draw on, challenge, and strengthen different constructions of masculine identity?

5. How have racial and ethnic categories defined western history and limited the ability of individuals and groups to access opportunities in the West? You will want to consider policies and practices involving some or all of the following: employment, housing, immigration, and military actions.
6. From horses to highways, western history has been shaped by transportation technology. Discuss the important and changing role of different forms of transportation in shaping the history of the U.S. West and, particularly, its relationship to the East. Use at least three of the following possible examples: horses, ships, overland trails, railroads, and highways.
7. How did homesteading in the wake of the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862 and the rise of suburbs of the 1950s reflect the importance of independence and ownership in western and American history?
8. Despite the prominence of images of western wilderness and rural areas, the West has been a predominantly urban region—particularly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. How have cities defined the history of the West?
9. How have struggles over the control of rivers shaped western history? In responding to this question, be sure to consider Elliot West's *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado*, Richard White's *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River*, Marc Reisner's "Red Queen," and lectures.
10. Historian Richard White wrote, "The American West, more than any other section of the United States, is a creation not so much of individual or local efforts, but of federal efforts. More than any other region, the West has been historically a dependency of the federal government." How did the U.S. federal government shape western history during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?

### **Terms and Images for Short Identifications:**

Of these 75 terms and 9 images, 10 terms and 4 images will appear on the exam. Of those, you will choose 4 terms and 1 image for each of which you'll need to briefly (in no more than 3-4 sentences) identify it and describe its significance to the history of the U.S. West.

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| 1. Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca            | 40. Henry E. Huntington & the Pacific      |
| 2. Francisco Vásquez de Coronado         | Electric Railway "Red Cars"                |
| 3. Pueblo Revolt of 1680                 | 41. Newlands Reclamation Act, 1902         |
| 4. Louisiana Purchase, 1803              | 42. Reclamation Service                    |
| 5. Lewis & Clark Expedition, 1804-1806   | 43. Repatriation                           |
| 6. Zebulon Pike                          | 44. Dust Bowl                              |
| 7. Fur Trade                             | 45. "Okies"                                |
| 8. Santa Fe Trail                        | 46. John Steinbeck                         |
| 9. Manifest Destiny                      | 47. Dorothea Lange                         |
| 10. Mexican-American War                 | 48. Federal Emergency Relief               |
| 11. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848    | Administration (FERA)                      |
| 12. Gadsden Purchase, 1853               | 49. Agricultural Adjustment Administration |
| 13. John C. Frémont                      | (AAA)                                      |
| 14. Pacific Railroad Surveys, 1853-1855  | 50. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)      |
| 15. Overland Trails                      | 51. Boulder Dam, aka Hoover Dam            |
| 16. The Oregon Trail                     | 52. Grand Coulee Dam                       |
| 17. Brigham Young                        | 53. Indian Reorganization Act, 1934        |
| 18. California Gold Rush                 | 54. Attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7,    |
| 19. Pacific Railroad Act, 1862           | 1941                                       |
| 20. First Transcontinental Railroad      | 55. Los Alamos, New Mexico                 |
| 21. Homestead Act, 1862                  | 56. Hanford, Washington                    |
| 22. Reservation System                   | 57. Henry J. Kaiser                        |
| 23. Frontier                             | 58. Emergency Farm Labor Program—aka       |
| 24. Frederick Jackson Turner             | Bracero Program                            |
| 25. Buffalo Bill Cody and the Wild West  | 59. Sleepy Lagoon, 1942                    |
| 26. Domesticity                          | 60. Zoot Suit Riots, 1943                  |
| 27. Paternalism                          | 61. Japanese Internment                    |
| 28. Richard Henry Pratt and the Carlisle | 62. Executive Order 9066                   |
| Indian School in Pennsylvania            | 63. National Interstate and Defense        |
| 29. Ghost Dance                          | Highway Act, 1956                          |
| 30. Wounded Knee, 1890                   | 64. Nevada Test Site                       |
| 31. Dawes Act, 1887                      | 65. Disneyland                             |
| 32. Trail Drives                         | 66. The Sunbelt                            |
| 33. Open Range Ranching                  | 67. Suburbs                                |
| 34. Occupational Segregation             | 68. Federal Housing Administration (FHA)   |
| 35. Dual Wage System                     | 69. Lakewood Company                       |
| 36. Anti-coolie Clubs                    | 70. Stanford Industrial Park               |
| 37. Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882          | 71. Watts Riot, 1965                       |
| 38. Western Federation of Miners (WFM)   | 72. Sagebrush Rebellion                    |
| 39. International Workers of the World   | 73. Chicano Movement                       |
| (IWW)—"Wobblies," 1905                   | 74. Ronald Reagan                          |
|  | 75. Immigration Act of 1965                |



“American Progress” (John Gast, 1872)

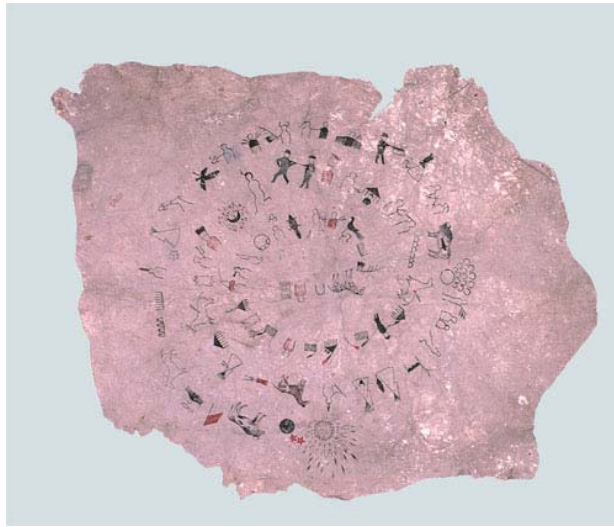


“Miners in the Sierras” (Charles Christian Nahl, c. 1851)



Anti-Chinese Cartoon, c.1870s

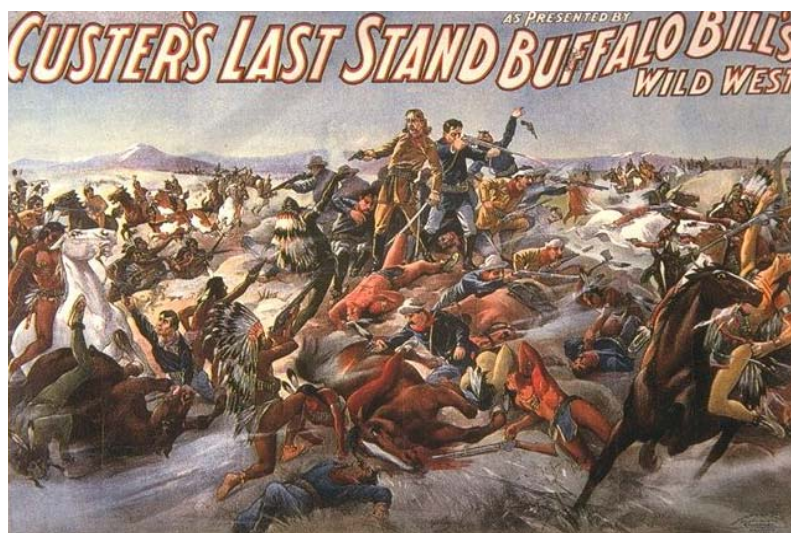




Lone Dog's Winter Count, 1800-1870



Three Lakota Boys—before and after their arrival at Carlisle Indian School, c. 1880-1900



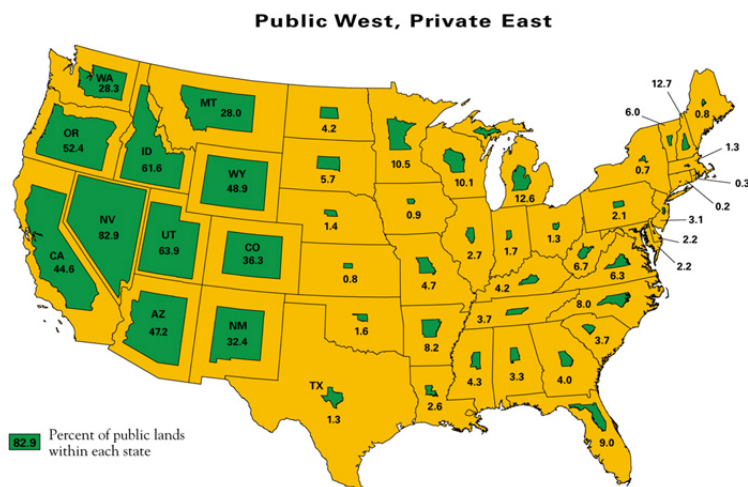
Advertisement for Buffalo Bill's Wild West, c. 1890s



"Destitute Pea Pickers in California. Mother of Seven Children. Age Thirty-Two. Nipomo, California."  
(Dorothea Lange, February, 1936)



Lakewood, California, 1950



### Percentage of public lands by state, c. 1990s