

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

GEOG 12 - The American West

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

A topical survey of the American West from the Great Plains to the Pacific, emphasizing both historical and contemporary interpretations of settlement, resource management, economic development, and urbanization. Particular emphasis is placed on how various cultural groups with differing social, political, and religious values have each made a unique impact upon the western landscape.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. analyze the physical character of the landscape.
- B. recognize migration and settlement patterns of various cultural groups.
- C. describe the development of regional interconnectedness and economic dependency.
- D. compare and contrast urban and rural land use policies.
- E. formulate reasoned opinions about the future of the American West.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction: Definitions of the American West; symbols and myths; perceptions.	3.00
2. Landforms, climate, and vegetation	3.00
3. Water: transfer and distribution; federal and state water projects; politics of water	6.00
4. Mineral resources: distribution of energy resources: fossil fuel landscapes	3.00
5. Discovery and exploration: Indigenous cultures; European conquest; Lewis and Clark; Great Surveys	3.00
6. Peopling the West: Mormon settlements; Gold Rush; transportation systems (railroads and interstates); Dust Bowl migration; Spanish 'reconquest'; SE Asian immigration; politics and policies of immigration.	9.00
7. Economic activities: agriculture; ranching; lumbering; fishing; mining; industry; military	9.00
8. Resource management: public Lands; National Parks; preservation vis-à-vis conservation.	6.00
9. The Urban West; sunbelt Metropolises; ethnic settlements; future landscapes.	6.00
10. The future of the American West	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Guest Speakers
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Discussion
- E. Reading Assignments
- F. Multimedia Presentations
- G. Map drawing and analysis
- H. Independent investigation

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Class participation
- D. Oral reports

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
- B. Writing Assignments
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Garreau, Joel. The Nine Nations of North America. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1981.
- B. Washington, D.C.. Atlas of North America: Space Age Portrait of a Planet. National Geographic Society, 2008.
- C. Byrd, K., Rissman and A.M. Mevelender. Impacts of Conservation essement Threats in Ruralwoodland Landscape. Urban Planning Press, 2009.

Created/Revised by: Michael Findlay

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