

# *History Matters*

**Professor: Dr. Stephen Sylvester**

**Course Title : Topics : The American Frontier**

**16 week session, Spring 2016(01/18/15—5/12/15)**

**Course Number and Time: Hist 220-502, Online**

**Prerequisites: None**

*Course Description:* The course will focus on the historical development of the continental United States that lies west of the Mississippi River. Themes examined will include the frontier hypothesis, the West as a process, the West as a place, and its impact on American culture. Natural and social landscapes, immigration, race and ethnicity, the role of commercial development, and the myths of the West will be discussed.

## **The University of New Mexico's Learning Outcomes,**

### **Hist. 220-502**

**All students** registered at any of the University of New Mexico campuses must meet the following goals and objectives to pass Hist. 220-502, Topics: The American Frontier

#### *The Learning Outcomes for Hist 220:*

1. Students will produce historical analysis through reading primary sources, engagement in class discussions, and in their written essays. The goal is to enable students to offer their own oral and written historical analysis of documents and to develop the ability to think critically and historically when discussing the past.
2. Gain through instruction, writing, and discussion the habit of thinking objectively, critically, and historically about the human condition in previous centuries.
3. In preparing essay assignments, students will demonstrate in discussion and written work their awareness of different peoples and cultures in past environments and of how those cultures changed over the course of the centuries. They will be encouraged to blend factual material and analysis of documents in order to develop original personal interpretations of the issues involved. They will also gain and appreciation of conceptual knowledge and the confidence to apply concepts to specific historical situations.
4. Students will be able to:
  - To discuss the importance of the West in the development of America.

- To explain the effects of technological change on the West.
- To describe the dynamics of westward expansion and its effects on native and immigrant populations.
- To think critically about the dynamics of a multi-cultural frontier.
- To express such fundamental concepts as Manifest Destiny, racism, regionalism, and ethnocentrism in the West.
- To recognize and explain American settlement patterns in the Trans-Mississippi West.
- To think critically about the major theories of westward expansion.

### **Your Professor**

Dr. Stephen Sylvester

Office: OnLine

Phone: (208) 259-3394

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Greetings and welcome to Hist 220, the 16-week online version. I am the professor—Dr. Stephen Sylvester—and my plan is to engage you in the study of history, perhaps to spark and encourage interest in the past, and to assist you in arriving at conclusions based on careful analysis of certifiable evidence. My academic degrees—B.I.S. in history, New Mexico State University; M.A. in History, University of North Dakota, Doctor of Arts, History and Journalism, University of North Dakota, post-graduate work at Rutgers University, U.C.L.A., and Case Western Reserve University. My major fields of interest are World history, American history, the history of the American West, women's studies, and international relations. I have taught at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, Montana State University Northern, Peru State College, the University of Alaska, the University of Hawaii, Lassen College in California, Shandong University in Jinan, China, and online for Rowan-Cabarrus College in North Carolina. I have lectured at Istanbul University and in Morocco and Tunisia. I am a member of the Speakers Bureau for Humanities Montana and the Humanities Committee of Idaho. I live on the west bank of the South Payette River in the isolated mountain and canyon region of south-central Idaho—cell phones do not work here. Having grown up in Socorro and being part of a family of Lobos—my father, two of my brothers, and a sister earned UNM degrees—I visit the area reasonably regularly and claim some familiarity with the culture of New Mexico and the greater Southwest and trans-Mississippi West.

### ***Materials and Supplies Needed***

Books are available at UNM Valencia's bookstore. For directions, please see the map:  
<http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Map/vcmap.htm>

### **Textbook Required**

**The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West** by Patricia Nelson Limerick. New York: W.W. Norton, 1987

**Other Supplies Needed** A computer equipped with MicroSoft Word.

**Support for Student Success: Getting Help**

<p><b><i>Begin with</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Dr. Sylvester</i></b></p>	<p>My office hours for this course are Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and by appointment. We may meet through Skype or simply via e-mail conversation. You may contact me any time with "Mail" in Blackboard LEARN. In Course Tools, click on "<b>Mail</b>" to send me a message. I will respond within 12 hours. If I am to be unavailable for more than 12 hours I will post an announcement. We will communicate via e-mail. I answer quickly. I expect timely responses when I e-mail individual students with questions about assignment submissions. Essays are to be submitted as Word documents sent as attachments to a Lobo Mail e-mail message. If you do not receive a "Got it. Sylvester" response with 48 hours, I have not received it.</p>
<p><b><i>Blackboard LEARN Support Services</i></b></p>	<p><b>Computer Technicians:</b> Password problems? Trouble with files opening? Can't figure out why your browser does not work? What is a browser, anyway? If you have questions about computer problems, call 277-5757, M-F, 8:00 am-12:00 noon and M-F, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm MST. Computer technicians are available and happy to help you solve those difficult problems.</p> <p><b>Tutorials:</b> Having problem with one of the Course Tools in Blackboard LEARN? If you do not know how to use one of the tools, try one of the tutorials available on the Blackboard LEARN information page. <a href="http://Blackboard_LEARNinfo.unm.edu/student/">http://Blackboard LEARNinfo.unm.edu/student/</a>.</p> <p><b>Tutors:</b> At The Learning Center at UNM Valencia Campus, tutors are available, both face-to-face and online, to help you navigate Blackboard LEARN. Call for an appointment: 925-8900.</p>
<p><b><i>Library Resources</i></b></p>	<p>The UNM Valencia Campus library is a resource for articles and books. Go to <a href="http://www.unm.edu/~unmvclib/">http://www.unm.edu/~unmvclib/</a> to search remotely (from home). You will need passwords. Call (505)-925-8990 to ask for passwords available to UNM students. Use Wikipedia for clues to sources only. Wikipedia is not a reliable site for historical research— one can find support for virtually any thought, feeling, or belief. Scholarship in history must be based on verifiable evidence.</p>

<p><b>Equal Access Services/ADA</b></p>	<p>Equal Access Services, phone (505) 925-8560 and website <a href="http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm">http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm</a>, provides academic support to students with disabilities. If you need alternative formats for completing coursework, you should contact this service immediately to ensure your success.</p> <p>Once you have been with Equal Access, you must send all documented forms to me ASAP. I cannot accommodate any special needs without the proper authorization from UNM Valencia Campus Accessibility Services, who tell me how to help you best. Once I receive your paperwork, pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I accommodate documented special needs. I encourage students to discuss their concerns with me.</p>
	<p>Face-to-face and online tutoring is available at The Learning Resources Center. You may call 925-8900 for information, or you may visit <a href="http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/">http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/</a>. Either Lucille Farrington, Director of the Learning Center, or any of the tutors will be happy to arrange tutoring sessions.</p>

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage Range	Points Required	Assigned Points
Grade	Percentage Range	Points Required	Discussion Board – up to 5 points per forum – 50 points total
A+	96-100%	430	Each Exam – 100 pts – 200 points total
A	93-95	418-429	Each Essay – 100 pts – 200 points total
A-	90-92	405-417	
B+	86-89	387-404	Total points possible -- 450
B	83-85	373-386	
B-	80-82	360-372	
C+	76-79	342-359	
C	73-75	328-341	
C-	70-72	315-327	
D	60-69	270-314	Failure to turn in an essay or exam will result in a failing grade for the course.
F	59% or less	269 or fewer	Failure to participate in Discussion Board two consecutive weeks will result in an automatic drop from the course through the drop date, an F in the course after that date.

You can earn **A, B, C, D (fractionated), W, F, or I**. **C through A+** is passing, and **C- or lower** is failing. **D's** and **F's**, which are failing, are assigned to students who have consistently submitted work that does not meet expectations. **F's are NOT given to help students maintain financial aid, scholarships, immigration status, or sports eligibility**. If you earn an **I**, you have neither passed nor failed the course; you must complete the missing portfolio during the following semester or the University automatically converts the **I** to an **F**. The Instructor, the student, and the Division Chair must agree on the requirements for completion of an **I** and conversion to a credit letter grade. A **W** is used for students who have not been dropped from the class but have not participated or done work in the class.

### Reasons Students Are Dropped

Students may be dropped from the course **if they . . .**,

1. **Fail to participate in this course for more than a week—or two consecutive DBs.**
2. **Do not turn in any one of the major essays assignments.** Please remember, **no late papers are accepted without specific permission, which may or may not be granted depending on the reason and supporting evidence.**
3. **Have a 50% grade average at the Midterm** (end of Week 8).
4. **Threaten the mental or physical safety or well-being of any member of the class.** This includes stalking, cyber stalking, or threats of/actual physical violence.
5. **Are disrespectful to me or other classmates** in correspondence, such as discussions, e-mails, or peer editing sessions, or during class meetings. This behavior includes rude comments, swearing, or threats.

### General Policies for Grade Disputes

You should be familiar with one very important rule regarding disputes: the Student Privacy Act, a federal statute called **FERPA, strictly prohibits the instructor administrators from talking to anyone but the student** about his/her grades, progress, or work. Therefore, if you have questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that **you** are the **ONLY ONE** who may speak to me regarding grades, work, or progress. In other words, a UNM VC instructor or administrator cannot speak to parents, relatives, or friends of the student about student grades, progress, or work.

### Avoiding Plagiarism

You must complete two essays of from 500 to 750 words—two to three pages double-spaced. Your writing assignments must not be plagiarized. Plagiarism means using or copying language and/or ideas without acknowledging where you got them. Plagiarism includes copying another student's papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, copying passages from sources without proper documentation, or rephrasing an author's ideas and then presenting them as your own original thoughts.

To learn how to avoid plagiarism, e-mail me or consult a tutor. To learn more, complete the Plagiarism Tutorial in Course Materials in Blackboard LEARN or at <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism>. (Pick Dylan in the tutorial.) If you would like even more information about plagiarism, The Owl at Purdue website offers sage advice: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01>. In addition, talk to me about methods of quoting that will help you avoid plagiarizing. See Writing Tips in Module I as well.

In a world of high stress and busy schedules, coupled with ample resources on the Internet, you may be tempted to plagiarize. Stop! Ignore that temptation! Why? If you do plagiarize, you will face one

or more of the following consequences: being dropped from the course, failing the assignment, failing the course, or facing disciplinary action taken by the University. Your actions may also be reported to the Dean of Instruction. Further disciplinary action, in addition to the actions taken for the plagiarism, may be taken based on the severity of the behavior. The University considers plagiarism a serious form of academic dishonesty or stealing.

### Meeting Due Dates

- Due dates for all work—Discussion Board, quizzes, essays, and exams are in the course schedule here and in the course modules, as well as with the assignments themselves. This is an online course, but that does not mean that any old time will work. Deadlines are generally midnight Sunday of each week. I realize that work, family issues, illness, or technical glitches may get in the way, but each and all of these should be very rare and will be allowed only with clear evidence and timely notice. If you do not have a consistently available computer, an online course is not for you.

### Editing Your Essay: Running the Spell and Grammar Checker

Before you submit any writing, run the spell/grammar check. While this is not a full “revision,” it is a type of revision called line-by-line editing, a necessary step that will help you get a better grade. This is a history course, but correct grammar and spelling count.

In Word, you can set the spell and grammar check to catch more errors. (If you need additional help, type “settings for spelling and grammar” in the help box.) The following are the directions for **Word 2007**:

1. In the 2007 version of Word, click on the circle in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. In the new window that opens, select “Word Options” located at the bottom.
2. In Word 2007, click on “Proofing.”
3. In the section that reads, “When correcting spelling and grammar in Word,” change “Writing Style” from “Grammar Only” to “Grammar and Style.”
4. Next, click on “Settings,” which is right next to “Writing Style.”
5. In “Grammar and Style Options” section under the word “Require,” set the boxes to “Always,” “Inside,” and “2.” Click on “Ok.” The window will disappear. Then, click on “Ok.” The second window will disappear.
6. Note: in “Proofing” (Word 2007), you can also reset your spell checker if you want to recheck a document on which you have previously run the spell or grammar checker. Click on “Recheck Document.”

You are now ready to spell and grammar check your document. To actually spell check, click on the tab called **“Review”** and then click on **“Spelling and Grammar,”** on the upper left hand side of that screen. Also, read your document carefully to catch any errors grammar and spell check may have missed – e.g. form/from. You may also want to consult helpful grammar sites such as “Grammar Girl” if you have questions about usage.

**Grammar Girl**, <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>

### Computer Policies

#### Technical Safeguards

Please save all of your work. First, save all assignments on your hard disk and then save copies to memory sticks. For even better protection, print out hard copies of your work. **Important Note:** At UNM Valencia, losing a file is not an excuse for late work.

## Getting Computer Help

If you experience computer difficulties, you must call **(505) 277-5757** for help and fix the problem. These computer technicians can answer questions you may have concerning specific software, hardware, and other procedural issues related to this course.

## Computer Policies in a UNM VC Lab

If you use the computers on campus, you must adhere to all policies set forth by the University of New Mexico at Valencia Campus. Check with the person who oversees the lab for a copy of the policies.

# Assignments and Schedule

Spring, 2015 –1/12-5/12/2015 – Online

Dr. Stephen Sylvester

<b>Module 1 – The Conquerors</b>	
Week 1 Jan. 18-24	PowerPoints—Introduction and PowerPoint 1: What is the Frontier?  Discussion Board: Getting to Know You (2 points) Due 1/24  Reading: Frederick Jackson Turner: The Significance of the Frontier in American History
Week 2 Jan. 25-31	PowerPoint—PowerPoint 2: Ten Things About the West  Reading: Ten Things About the West. First Discussion Board—Preconceptions about the Frontier—Due no later than 1/31.
Week 3 Feb. 1-7	PowerPoint 3: New West, True West  Reading: New West, True West. Second Discussion Board – Due no later than 2/7.
Week 4 Feb. 8-14	PowerPoint 4: A Bit of the Old West  Readings: Text-Introduction and Chapter 1 – The Empire of Innocence;  Discussion Board 3 – Due no later than 2/14
Week 5 Feb. 15-21	PowerPoint 5 - Chronology; The Fur Trade  Reading: Text Chapter 2 - Property; Flawed Hypothesis (Readings File)  Discussion Board 4 – Due no later than 2/21

<p>Week 6 Feb. 22-28</p>	<p>PowerPoint 6 - Chronology: Native Americans; the Civil War and Activity in the Trans-Mississippi West</p> <p>Readings. Text – Chapters 3 and 4</p> <p>Discussion Board 5 – Due no later than 2/28</p>
<p>Week 7 Feb. 29-Mar. 6.</p>	<p>Power Point 7</p> <p>Readings: Text: Chapter 5 - The Meeting Ground of Past and Present</p> <p>Avenues for Ladies Only (Readings file)</p> <p>Discussion Board 6 – Due no later than 3/6</p>
<p>Week 8 Mar.7-13 Spring Break Mar. 14-20</p>	<p>First Exam – PowerPoint Lectures 1-7; Text Chapters 1-5, Readings for Module 1 -- Due by midnight, March 13.</p> <p>Essay 1 – Due by midnight, March 20.</p>
<p>Week 9 Mar. 21-27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Module 2—The Conquerors Meet Their Match</b></p> <p>PowerPoint 8</p> <p>Readings: Text Chapter 6 – The Persistence of Natives.</p> <p>Native Americans in Literature (Module 2 Readings File)</p> <p>Discussion Board 7 – Due no later than 3/27</p>
<p>Week 10 Mar. 28-Apr. 3</p>	<p>PowerPoint 9</p> <p>Readings: Text Chapter 7 – America the Borderland</p> <p>Discussion Board 8 – Due no later than 4/3</p>
<p>Week 11 Apr. 4-10</p>	<p>PowerPoint 10</p> <p>Readings: Text Chapter 8 – Racialism on the Run</p> <p>Discussion Board 9 – Due no later than 4/10</p>
<p>Week 12 Apr. 11-17</p>	<p>PowerPoint 11</p> <p>Readings: Text Chapter 9 – Mankind the Manager</p> <p>Discussion Board 10 – Due no later than 4/17</p>
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>PowerPoint 12</p>



Apr. 18-24	Readings: Text Chapter 10 – The Burdens of Western American History  Discussion Board 11 – Due no later than 4/24																																												
Week 14  Apr. 25-May 1	PowerPoint 13  Readings: The Image of Indians in Film (Module 2 Readings File)  Dear Friend Henry (Module 2 Readings File)  Discussion Board 12 – Due no later than 5/1																																												
Week 15  May 2-8	PowerPoint 14  Second Essay Due no later than midnight, May 5.  Final Discussion Board – What was the Frontier – Due no later than midnight, May 8.																																												
Week 16  May 9-13	Second Exam – Covers all material, week 8 through week 15 – Due no later than midnight, May 10.																																												
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