Lewis and Clark in the West

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Joseph R. D’Argenio

Rutgers University, Camden

Department of History

Format: Online

Email Address: joseph.dargenio@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Course Overview:

*Lewis and Clark in the West* is a comprehensive account of the dramatic expansion of the United States in the opening years of the nineteenth century. The course opens with a variety of thematic threads: American culture and society during the early Republic, the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson, and the Louisiana Purchase. Emphasis centers on the Lewis and Clark expedition’s journey of exploration, encounter, and Western discovery. Along the way, students come to know numerous Native American peoples, the ecology and geography of the West, the politics of empire-building, and the idea of the West in American minds.

Required Readings:

**Secondary Sources**


Ronda, James P. *Finding the West: Explorations with Lewis and Clark.* University of New Mexico Press, 2006.


Primary Sources


**Additional primary sources will be assigned within some modules and will be made available to students through elearning. Some of the additional primary sources will be located within the Secondary Sources listed above.**

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

**Grading Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modules 1-8</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Each student is required to read all online instructor postings and materials as well as the assigned "Required Readings."
- **EXAMS:** Each student will be responsible for the completion of two online objective exams. Students must logon to take their exams during the EXAM PERIODS listed in the "Due Dates and Exam Periods" document, located within the course itself.
- **MODULES:** This course consists of eight separate modules, or parts. Each module runs for, or is the equivalent to, two calendar weeks during a regular fifteen week semester. To successfully complete a module, students must complete one online assignment: the answer to a Discussion Question (DQ).
  - **Discussion Question:** Each student will be responsible for submitting an original short essay for each of the eight modules. Essays will be based on questions posted by the instructor for each module. Essays must be a minimum of 750 words in length (roughly three typed, double-spaced pages). Essays must be based on assigned textbook or article readings—DO NOT USE ONLINE OR OUTSIDE SOURCES. Proper citations must be included in each Discussion Question assignment. **ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:59PM ON THEIR DUE DATE**
Grading Scale
Letter Grades by Percentage

A  = 93%-100%  B-  = 80%-82%  D+ = 67%-69%
A- = 90%-92%  C+ = 77%-79%  D  = 63%-66%
B+ = 87%-89%  C  = 73%-76%  D- = 60%-62%
B  = 83%-86%  C- = 70%-72%  F = 59% and Below

CLASS POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class “attendance” and participation in class discussions are essential to this course. Students must meet all expectations outlined above under “Evaluation and Assessment—Class Participation.”

PLAGIARISM: Students are required to properly cite all written assignments. Footnotes or parenthetical references and a works cited page are required for each assignment. Whether paraphrasing or directly quoting the work of another author, students must include a citation. Further instructions for citations will be provided within the instructions for each written assignment. Written assignments submitted without citations or that evidence plagiarism will receive no credit.

LATE/MISSED WORK: A key to taking any college course is time management. There are many reading and writing assignments in this course; all have clear, firm deadlines. All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their respective due dates. Late work will be accepted up to one calendar week after its due date at a 5% grade reduction for the assignment. Plan accordingly!

ONLINE ETIQUETTE: Students are to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner at all times within the online environment. All communications and postings—public, between students, or between student and professor—are to be considered the same as communication within a regular, on-campus classroom. Students are not to use vulgar, discriminatory, insulting, threatening, or otherwise derogatory language. Essentially, students should not write anything they would not say in a regular, on-campus class. Additionally, please remember that the user names you are looking at—those of your professor and other students—are, in fact, other people. Please use the same discretion you would use in face-to-face communications.
**TOPICAL OUTLINE** *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULES</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>READINGS **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| MODULE 1 | Course Orientation | Welcome Message/Module 1  
BAKE: parts I, II, III |
| MODULE 2 | Before Lewis and Clark | WOOD: whole book  
BAKE: parts IV, V, VI |
| MODULE 3 | The Expedition in  
Perspective, part 1 | RON-FW: forward-chapter 3  
BAKE: parts VII, VIII, IX |
| MODULE 4 | The Expedition in  
Perspective, part 2 | RON-FW: chapters 4-7  
BAKE: parts X, XI, XII |
| MODULE 5 | Across Cultures, part 1 | RON-LCI: chapters 1-5  
BAKE: parts XIII, XIV, XV |
| MODULE 6 | Across Cultures, part 2 | RON-LCI: chapters 6-9  
BAKE: parts XVI, XVII, XVIII |
| MODULE 7 | What was the West, part 1 | ALLEN: prologue-chapter 7  
BAKE: parts XIX, XX, XXI |
| MODULE 8 | What was the West, part 2 | ALLEN: chapters 8-14  
BAKE: parts XXII, XXIII, XXIV |

*For all reading assignments refer to the “Assignments and Activities” tabs within each module.  
*For all due dates and exam periods refer to the “Due Dates and Exam Periods” document located in Module 1.  
*Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

** We will use the abbreviations below when referring to each assigned textbook within the Syllabus’ Topical Outline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN</td>
<td>John Allen’s <em>Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKE</td>
<td>John Bakeless’ <em>The Journals of Lewis and Clark</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RON-FW</td>
<td>James Ronda’s <em>Finding the West: Explorations with Lewis and Clark.</em></td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>RON-LCI</td>
<td>James Ronda’s <em>Lewis and Clark among the Indians.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>Raymond Wood’s <em>Prologue to Lewis and Clark: The MacKay and Evans Expedition.</em></td>
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