

# Bemidji State University

## HST 3187: American West

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

The American West is both an idea and a place, and although it is difficult to define, it is central to an understanding of how Americans see themselves and are viewed by people around the world. This course focuses on the trans-Mississippi West, but recognizes these are imposed boundaries and that the region is shaped by decisions and policies imposed by Easterners. This study moves across time, examining the lives and cultures of the earliest peoples, the effects of immigrants who competed for land and resources, and the legacy of this westward experience for modern society. The West, too, is real and imagined, and the course will consider its impact on American popular culture.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/22/2007 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Concepts of the Frontier and the West
2. Democracy on the High Plains in the 20's & 30's
3. Efforts to Preserve a "Wilderness"
4. Exploration & Migration
5. Manifest Destiny
6. Myths of the West and their Influence
7. Native Americans & Conflicts
8. Transformation of the Land & its People

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. be introduced to the prominent role of the West in American history.
2. develop a better understanding of contemporary issues in the light of their experience.
3. understand the context in which people and events shaped both the myth and the reality of the American West.

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

### G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted