

Land and Life: The American Southwest

Course number: GRG 320K
Unique number: 36625
Meeting time: MWF noon – 1250
Meeting room: CLA 1.102
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor

Instructor: William E. Doolittle
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Course Overview:

This course is a historical geography of the arid southwestern quadrant of the North American continent. As such, it includes not only the southwestern portion of the United States, but also much of northern Mexico. The reason for this is quite simple; until relatively recently AD 1848 there were no political boundaries separating the two nation states. Indeed the notion of nationalism only came about 200 years earlier with the Treaty of Westphalia. Focus is on two subtopics.

1. The ways of life of the "Native Americans," "Spaniards," and "Anglos," three misnomers if ever there were any. Emphasis is placed on subsistence or economic activities of the respective people as they are influenced by the biophysical environment, technology, demographics, and culture.
2. The effects or changes that successive peoples had on the environment and earlier residents (e.g., how the Spanish mission system affected native cultural ecologies and landscapes) are similarly elucidated.

This course is designed for students in history, anthropology, education, Latin American Studies, American Studies, and Mexican-American Studies, as well as geography and environmental sciences/studies. It is intended to provide an understanding of the processes that create geographically identifiable regions, and foster a deep appreciation for historical ecologies of this exotic yet domestic landscape.

Grading Policy:

A short (500-700 word) written review of each of the three assigned books @ 10% each = 30%

Two exams @ 25% each = 50%

Class participation (including attendance and discussion in class, completion of two exercises, and going on to the field) = 20%

Plus and minus grades will be used for the final course grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

The use of personal computers in class is highly encouraged. Copies of all PowerPoint slides presented in class are also available in PDF through *Canvas*. Students should convert them using OCR or some other program and use them in class to assist in taking notes.

Textbooks:

Gary Nabhan, *The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in O'odham Country*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2002.

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. New York: Vintage, 1971.

Cordia Sloane Duke and Joe B. Frantz, *6000 Miles of Fence: Life on the XIT Ranch of Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961.

Additional readings for various class meetings will be available in *Canvas* via pdf.

Final Exam:

There is NO "final exam," meaning a comprehensive examination, for this course. The second exam, although not weighted any heavier than the first exam, will be administered during the scheduled final exam period.

Students with Disabilities:

Such students may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/ 512.471.6259.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to be knowledgeable of, and conform to, UT's Honor Code. <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>

Religious Holidays:

According to UT policy, students must notify professors of their pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. Students missing a class or examination because of a religious holy day will be given an opportunity to make-up missed work.

Security and Emergency Evacuation:

Students are expected to be knowledgeable of UT's recommendations about campus safety and security www.utexas.edu/safety/ and emergency evacuation routes and procedures www.utexas.edu/emergency

The most direct route out of the building (CLA) from our lecture hall (room 0.128) is through either of the two doors at the rear of the room and then turning left once in the hallway.

Updated: 2 March 2015