**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Number: HIST 1404

Course Title: American West

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Division/Discipline: Academic Division/ History

Course Description: This course provides students with an excellent study of the significance of the West in American History. Students will gain a broad understanding of the events that occurred which shaped the development of the West.

1. **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**
2. **COLLEGE POLICIES**

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is detrimental to the College's educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and College Policy and Procedure Manual.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. Learn the rules of, and avoid instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism. Additional information about academic integrity can be found at the following link: <http://academicintegrity.bartonccc.edu/>

Anyone seeking an accommodation under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is to notify Student Support Services via email at [disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu).

1. **COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM**

This course is designed for students who already possess a knowledge of American History in the West; or those students who are seeking a greater understanding of the History of the American West. It provides a focused study of westward expansion after the Civil War period. Primary focus of the course is on the evolution of tactics, strategy and logistics of military operations during the expansion of the west.. The cultural, social, political and economic forces that helped shape the events of westward expansion will also be examined. This course will enhance the history curriculum by including an option for students to study the military campaigns of the U.S. Army against the Native Americans during the period. This course will benefit those students planning to pursue bachelor degrees in history

1. **ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

A. Discuss the political, economic, and military factors of settling the American West.

1. Define how historians approach the subject of the American West.

2. Describe specific governmental problems, which plagued the West in the 1800’s, how the government eased those difficulties.

3. Define the term Manifest Destiny in context of the American West.

4. Define the migration of peoples across the American West, such as fur trapper, miner, pioneer, rancher and the role the Army played in that migration.

5. Define the term Frontier. Explain its relationship in geographic terms to the rest of the country.

6. Trace the differences between the Trans-Appalachian, the Trans-Mississippi Frontier and the Far West.

B. Describe the actions taken by the U.S. government to enable the settlement of the American West.

1. Describe the overall impact the U.S. Army played in westward expansion.

2. Analyze what life was like in the American West.

C. Identify the political and economic factors that formulated the U.S. government’s strategy for contending with the numerous Indian tribes impeding settlement of the American West.

1. Describe the various technologies such as canals, steamboats, railroads, stagecoaches and Pony Express, which furthered westward expansion.

2. Describe how the Native Americans resisted this expansion and the U.S. government countered this threat.

3. Define the term Indian Menace as the settlers saw it, and explain how they planned to remove it.

4. Describe the reservation system.

D. Identify the key U.S. and Indian personalities and recount their successes and/or failures.

1. Describe the major American military and civilian leaders of the U.S. settlement of the West.

2. Describe the major Indian leaders involved with the U.S. settlement of the West.

E. Describe the results of the U.S. settlement of the West and their effect on American History.

1. Synthesize how the historian approaches the American West and the interaction between the U.S. and the Indian.

2. Describe the closing of the frontier.

3. Critically analyze how the American West became a part of writing and media especially in fiction and movies.

**VI. INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS**

**VII. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**VIII. REFERENCES**

**IX. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION**

**X. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**XI. COURSE OUTLINE**