

# ENGL 6339-001: Multicultural Literature of the US West

## Spring 2019

**Instructor**

Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandril

I will respond within 24 hours to an email submitted Mon-Fri.

**Time and Place of Class Meeting**

T 2:00-4:50

**Office Telephone Number**

817-272-2933

**Office**

Carlisle 612

**Office Hours**

Wednesdays, Thursday 2:00-3:00

Other meetings by arrangement

**E-mail Address**

[erin.murrahmandril@uta.edu](mailto:erin.murrahmandril@uta.edu)

**Faculty Profile**

<https://www.uta.edu/profiles/erin%20-murrah-mandril>

**Description of Course Content**

The US West holds a distinct place in American Literature. It even has its own genre, the “western.” That genre traditionally paints a picture of the masculine cowboy fighting “Indians” and outlaws, riding off into the sunset as he moves ever further west to escape the confines of industrialization, and “civilization.” In many ways, this romantic concept and the history that helped produce it solidified White identity within the U.S. Frederic Jackson Turner argued that the western frontier took Europeans and made them into Americans. That national myth produces U.S. identity at the expense of non-white people for whom the West was not necessarily west at all. Mexican Americans, Native Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans had long lived in the region or traveled there by very different routes than the “cowboy” and the “frontiersman,” many having journeyed north, or east, escaped slavery, or been forcibly removed from their homes. This class explores the writing of inhabitants in the U.S. West who charted a different course materially and rhetorically. Class readings will delve into archival material. Student participation in class discussions is mandatory. Your grade is centered on the final essay and related writing assignments.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate strong analytical skills and an understanding of key concepts in Latina and Latino literary production.
- Students will demonstrate critical reading skills.
- Students will be able to write analytical essays, developing effective thesis statements and using appropriate evidence to support arguments.
- Students will develop strong oral communication skills, learning how to present analytical arguments in a professional manner.

## Textbooks

You are responsible for purchasing books in time to read them before the assigned reading date and for bringing the appropriate book to class on the days we discuss it. This is true regardless of whether or not the bookstore has our book in stock. If the bookstore is out of stock, check local books stores, online stores, etc. You must bring the text to class. **Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.**

Magoffin, Susan Shelby. *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico 1846-1847*. University of Nebraska Press. Bison Books. 1982.  
ISBN: 978-0-803281165

Ridge, John Rollin. *The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta*. University of Oklahoma Press. 1977 (1854).  
ISBN: 978-0806114293

Ruiz de Burton, María Amparo. *Who Would Have Thought It?* Arte Publico. 1995 (1872).  
ISBN: 978-1558850811

Hopkins, Sarah Winnemucca. *Life Among the Piutes*. University of Nevada Press. 1994 (1883).  
ISBN: 978-0874172522

Love, Nat. *The Life and Adventures of Nat Love*. University of Nebraska Press. 1995 (1907).  
ISBN: 978-0803279551

Otero, Miguel Antonio. *Real Billy the Kid: With New Light on the Lincoln County War*. 1998 (1936).  
ISBN: 978-1558852341

Otsuka, Julie. *The Buddha in the Attic*. Anchor Press. 2012.  
ISBN: 978-0307744425

## Major Assignments and Exams

**Essay** This graduate seminar culminates in a 15-20 page thesis-driven research essay.

**Presentation** You will present on one author/text this semester. You will sign-up for the author/text during the second week of the semester. Your presentation does not have to be on the topic/author you select for your final paper.

**Other Assignments** You will have occasional homework assignments in addition to your regular reading. These will be considered as part of class preparation and go towards your participation grade. Some in-class assignments, such as free-writes, will also be graded as part of the participation grade. **Note you are required to visit the Multicultural Western Heritage Museum on your own time before Feb 26.**

## Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. I take attendance and missed classes will affect your participation grade. If you miss four classes, you will automatically lose one letter grade. You will also have graded in-class assignments which you cannot make-up. If you have a family emergency or health issue with a doctor's note, contact me as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, I will provide make-up exams for the midterm and final, but documentation of your reason for absence will be required (Dr.'s note, etc.)

Also, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

## Grading

The final grade for this course will be based on a 100-point scale 90-100 equals an A, 80- 89 equals a B, 70-79 equals a C, 60-69 equals a D, 59 and below equals an F. UTA does not use a + or – system for grades.

Final Essay .....	40 pts
Rough Draft .....	15 pts

Presentation .....	15 pts
Participation, homework, in-class assignments .....	30 pts

### Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

### Disability Accommodations

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

*The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

## **Title IX Policy**

The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

## **Academic Integrity**

Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

## **Electronic Communication**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at

<http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>. You can send e-mail to your instructor's and to classmate's MavMail account through the Blackboard e-mail link in Blackboard. However, you will need to go to your own MavMail account to check messages and responses you have received.

### **Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit

<http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

### **Student Feedback Survey**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

### **Final Review Week**

For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located on the side of the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator

but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

[http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac\\_Maps\\_Buildings.php](http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac_Maps_Buildings.php).

Emergency/Fire Evacuation Procedures can be viewed at:

[http://www.uta.edu/police/Evacuation\\_Procedures.pdf](http://www.uta.edu/police/Evacuation_Procedures.pdf)

I encourage you to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to your cell phones or email accounts.

Anyone can subscribe at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or

<https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

### **Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**The IDEAS Center** (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at [www.uta.edu/IDEAS](http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS), or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** [Optional.] The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation.

<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

## **ENGL 6339-001 Schedule Spring 2019**

Books should be read in their entirety by the first day they are discussed. Items and schedule are subject to change with advance notification from the professor.

<b>Jan 15</b>	First Day of Class: Turner, Slotkin, Smith Lecture and discussion
<b>Jan 22</b>	Trail of Tears archive on Blackboard Juan Seguin autobiography on Blackboard Scholarly Article on Blackboard
<b>Jan 29</b>	Susan Magoffin Scholarly Article on Blackboard
<b>Feb 5</b>	John Rollin Ridge Scholarly Article on Blackboard
<b>Feb 12</b>	Sarah Winnemucca Scholarly Article/book chapter on Blackboard
<b>Feb 19</b>	María Amparo Ruiz de Burton Alemán Article on Blackboard
<b>Feb 26</b>	Nat Love Scheckel article on Blackboard
<b>Mar 5</b>	Zitkala-Sa essays on Blackboard Article on Blackboard Archival encounter
<b>Mar 12</b>	Spring Break!
<b>Mar 19</b>	Sui Sin Far Mrs. Spring Fragrance and other stories on Blackboard (or purchase text) Article on Blackboard Return of the Archive

**Mar 26**      Film in-class: Buck and the Preacher  
Article on Blackboard

**April 2**      Miguel Otero

**April 9**      Leslie Marmon Silko  
**Rough Draft Due**

**April 16**     writing workshop in class

**April 23**     Julie Otsuka

**April 30**     **Final Essay Due**