1. Catalogue Description
   a) HIS 3780
   b) History of the American West
   c) MWF (3-0-3)
   d) S
   e) Amer West
   f) Explores the history of the American West from the earliest contacts to the 1890. WI
   g) None
   h) Spring 2005

2. Objectives and Evaluations of the Course
   a) Student Learning Objectives
      1) Students will be able to articulate the key issues involved in American Frontier History.
      2) Students will be able to identify accepted methods of historical research, and will use them to conduct their own research project.
      3) Students will be able to identify the major historiographical debates in colonial history.
      4) Students will interpret primary source documents.
      5) Students will be able to recognize arguments and evaluate the use of historical evidence.
   b) Methods of Assessment
      1) Written examinations—these examinations will assess students' thematic knowledge of American Frontier History and knowledge of historiographical controversies.
      2) Weekly writing assignments—writing assignments will assess students' comprehension of weekly reading assignments, as well as the ability to recognize arguments and evaluate the use of historical evidence.
      3) Research paper—a research paper will assess students' ability to do research and to construct arguments. The research paper will also permit feedback from instructors to facilitate improvement in students' written skills as well as their analytic skills and ability to apply historical methodology.
      4) Class participation—class participation will assess students' ability to articulate ideas verbally and to take part in an exchange of viewpoints.
   c) This course is not technology-delivered.
   d) This course is not eligible for graduate credit.
   e) This course is writing-intensive. The majority of grading within the course will be based upon students' written work. In addition, students will re-write at least one assignment.

3. Outline of the Course
   a) The course will be taught in 15 weeks, made up of three 50-minute class periods per week.

Weekly Schedule
Week 1: The Frontier Thesis
   a) Where is the West?
   b) The Turner Thesis and its Critics
   c) Borderlands, Backcountry and Frontier

Week 2: The Indian West
   a) Racial Terminology
   b) Regional Diversity in Native Culture
   c) The Accommodation/Resistance Paradigm

Week 3: The Spanish Frontier
   a) The Early Explorations
   b) Mission and Garrison
   c) Indian Resistance

Week 4: The West before the American Revolution
   a) The Fur Trade
   b) Land Speculators and Squatters
   c) Cooperation and Conflict on the Frontier

Week 5: The Mississippi Valley Frontier
   a) France and Its Empire
   b) Louisiana: Indians, Settlers, and Slaves
   c) International Competition

Week 6: Texas and the Mexican War
   a) Americans in Texas
   b) Texan Independence and the Lone Star Republic
   c) Mr. Polk’s War

Week 7: The Oregon Trail
   a) The Journey
   b) The Settler Family and the Northwest
   c) The Indian Threat: Real, or Imagined?

Week 8: California and Gold
   a) Spanish California
   b) The Gold Rush
   c) Life in a Wild West Town

Week 9: The West and Slavery
   a) King Cotton and Southern Expansion
   b) Efforts at Compromise
   c) The West and the Civil War

Week 10: The Plains Wars
   a) Civilization Policy and the Indian
   b) The Northern Plains Wars and the Sioux
   c) The Southern Plains Wars and the Apache

Week 11: Transportation
   a) The Railroad Wars
   b) Railroads and Settlement
   c) Asian Immigrants and the Transcontinental Railroads

Week 12: Mining
   a) Silver, Gold, and the Black Hills
   b) Miners and Settlers
   c) The Shift to Corporate Mining and the End of the ’49-er

Week 13: Farmers and Ranchers
   a) Cowboys and a Multi-ethnic Southeast
b) Cattlemen v. Sheepmen  
c) Fences and the End of the Open Range

Week 14: Closing of the Frontier
a) Wounded Knee and the End of Indian Resistance  
b) From Territories to States: The Admission Process  
c) Is the Frontier Really Closed?

Week 15: Legacy  
a) The Myth of the West in the 20th and 21st Centuries  
b) The Frontier Thesis Revisited  
c) New Theories for the 21st Century

b) N/A

4. Rationale
a) HIS 3780 History of the American West (along with HIS 3770 Native American History) will replace the current HIS 3780 Frontier America and the Indian. The old course, as it stands, covers an area that is too broad to be reasonably covered in a semester. The topics of the American West and Native American History should be taught as two discrete courses.

b) HIS 3780 will be open to juniors and seniors, who have presumably already taken HIS 2010 or HIS 2020, the American history surveys. This course will provide more a more in-depth look at American Frontier History in particular.

c) HIS 3780 will not be similar to any other courses.

d) HIS 3780 (and HIS 3770) will replace the current HIS 3780. It will serve as an approved elective for the History Major and the History Major with Social Science Certification.

5. Implementation
a) Michelle LeMaster, Terry Barnhardt  
b) N/A  
c) Robert V. Hine and John Mack Faragher, *The American West: A New Interpretive History*  

6. Community College Transfer  
N/A

7. Date Approved by Department of History Curriculum Committee  
October 1, 2003

8. Date Approved by College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee  
October 15, 2003

9. Date Approved by CAA  
October 30, 2003