Syllabus: HIST 4933 & 4953
Great Britain, Australia, & the American West
Frontier Societies, Cultural Diffusion, and the British Diaspora Out West and Down Under
British Studies Program / London-2017

Instructor of Record
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Course Description: This course will provide a broad transnational and comparative history of Great Britain, Australia, and the American West in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. It will consider the cultural, political, and economic relationships between Great Britain and the settler societies spawned by empire in North American and Australia. Important to the conversation are the processes of colonization, diffusion of culture, and the enduring consequences of globalization. A significant goal of the course is to foster historical analysis and critical thinking represented in a substantial research project. The course is designed as a lecture/seminar hybrid. The lecture format is traditional and will feature either the instructor of record or a guest lecturer. The seminar format is used to review lectures and to discuss assigned readings.

Course Abstract: The frontier cultures and economies of the great American West and the vast Australian continent are derivatives of British settler societies and were to some extent financed by the wealth of the British Empire. British and Scottish syndicates invested heavily in enterprises such as cattle ranching, sheep raising, and mining in particular. This course will take a comparative and transnational approach to contemplate the considerable influence of British culture out west and Down Under. It will also address representations of the American Wild West in British popular entertainment and the origins of Australian convict culture in Great Britain. London hosts various archives, libraries, and museums that chronicle the British diaspora in Australia and the American West and preserve the records of such.

Reading List: There is no textbook, however, several articles will be assigned and made available in a digital format prior to travel.

Grading System
Midterm Exam - 10%: The midterm will address lectures, guest lectures, and assigned readings prior to the mini-break.
Final Exam - 20%: The final exam addresses all lectures, guest lectures, and readings after the mini-break. Additionally, it will include a comprehensive essay.
Participation - 30%: Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in discussions, and write a brief review of each site visit or field trip related to the class.
Research Paper - 40%: The student will conceive, research, and write a significant research paper utilizing primary sources.
**Expected Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:

1) Identify and critique historical and contemporary interpretations and analyses of the relationship between Great Britain, Australia and the American West

2) Identify and appreciate differences and commonalities between Australian culture and its various international associates such as Great Britain, the United States – in particular the American West

3) Demonstrate knowledge of the global influence on the origins and evolution of Aboriginal and Indigenous societies, cultural institutions, political systems, and economic policies and practices of the various regions.

4) Conceive, construct, support, and justify a comparative, global, or transnational research project.

**Conduct:** All students are expected to act as responsible adults in the classroom and in all course related communication. Any and all undue disruptions or distractions will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. As a general rule any behavior that disrupts the administration of this class will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. The professor reserves the right to deduct points from the student’s semester total or expel the student from the course. **Arriving late for class is considered a major distraction.**

**Electronic Devices, Texting, and Phones:** It is imperative that you turn off phones, any and all communication devices, and other electronic equipment before entering the classroom. The use of a telephone or texting device for any reason is prohibited in the classroom. **It is considered a major distraction.**

**Laptops, Tablets, & etc.:** You must obtain permission from the professor to use laptops, tablets, and phones (or any other device capable of accessing the internet) in the classroom. Recent scholarship suggests that laptops and tablets are major distractions to fellow students and in general do not enhance learning and/or the classroom experience.

**E-mail:** Please note that e-mail correspondence in the most effective, efficient, reliable, and convenient way in which to communicate with your professor outside of the classroom. The professor/student relationship is professional by nature and, accordingly, your e-mail correspondence should be constructed professionally.

**Plagiarism & Cheating:** Any form of academic misconduct will not be tolerated.