Recent developments in environmental history, ethnohistory and archaeology have allowed historians to re-examine the history of the Canadian west before the first agricultural land booms of the Laurier Era. Pre-settlement western Canada was characterized by diverse cultures, changing economic pursuits and a variety of modes of subsistence often intimately connected to the special ecological regions that make up the western plains, parkland and boreal areas. This course examines pre-contact cultures, First Nations, the fur trade, and political and social accommodations up to the period of transformation by Canadian colonizers.

Assignments and Evaluation:
Mid-term Test: **FRIDAY** February 29 (in class) 50 mins.
   Map Identification, Short Answer (testing readings) and Short Essay (from lectures): 20%

Term Paper 45% **(Due Friday March 28, in class)**

Final Exam: Short Answer (testing readings) and Two Short Essays 35% **(Date TBA by Registrar)**

Students must complete all of the above requirements to pass the course. The test and exam are not open book.

Notes on Term Essay
Approximately 2000 words (8-10 pages) in length, the essay will represent a student’s cumulative historical research during the course of the term. His or her essay will demonstrate that student’s abilities to use historical documents and critically assess a variety of historical interpretations in order to arrive at an independent opinion on a topic, and to convincingly support a thesis statement clearly articulated in the essay paper.

Please note the following:
1. Students must develop a thesis from a primary document or documents (letters, diary, published narrative, business records, etc.) pertaining to an event or figure in western Canadian history before 1896. The University Library has a large collection of primary documents - in published form or on 3LT in the microforms area (for instance, the Bruce Peel Special Collections, the Canadian Institute of Historical Microforms and the newspaper collection). The Glenbow Archives in Calgary is one of the premier archival repositories in western Canada. Students
should submit to the instructor by January 30 a paper proposal (one paragraph long) detailing the source or sources to be consulted and a statement of what interests the student in these documents. Students are encouraged to begin term paper research and reading early in the term to avoid a last-minute rush for books, articles and, if necessary, interlibrary loan requests.

2. Students must cite a minimum of six books and/or academic articles in their footnotes and provide full references to them in a bibliography. Care should be taken with sources taken from the internet. Internet references drawn from non-academic sites (and non-refereed materials in general), reference sources with no attributions, or web information of dubious origins are not acceptable.

3. Papers with insufficient footnoting will not be graded. Serious shortcomings in footnoting will be considered plagiarism.

4. Late papers will be penalized half a grade for every day beyond the due date.

Please refer to the Department of History Essay Guide available on-line prior to the writing of your Essay. Essay guides, tips and notes on plagiarism are available at http://www.hist.ucalgary.ca/essay/essay.htm

Required Textbooks:

Course Blackboard:
Students should familiarize themselves with the course blackboard and be sure that the Registrar has one’s current e-mail address in order to receive instructor messages and notices. Links to articles and documents required for the course will be posted on the blackboard (accessible through www.blackboard.ca.)

Lectures
Week One (Jan 14-18):
Doing Early Western Canadian History; Geography, Environment and Early Plains/ Boreal Cultural Adaptations

Required Reading:
Friesen, introduction and Chapter 1

Week Two (Jan 21-25):
Precontact Cultures, Traditional Trade and Horse and Gun Adaptations
Week Three (Jan 28 – Feb 1):
**European Contact and the Biological Exchange**

**Required Reading:**

Week Four (Feb 4-8):
**Traditional Exchange and “Middle Ground” Accommodations in the Fur Trade**

**Required Reading:**


Week Five (Feb 11-15):
**Explaining the Expansion of the Western Fur Trade, European Competition and Environmental Change**

**Required Reading:**
Mary Whelan, “Dakota Indian Economics and the Nineteenth Century Fur Trade.”

Week Six: (Feb 18-22)
**No Lectures Reading Week**

Week Seven: (Feb 25-29) Ethnogenesis, Metis society and the River River Settlement

**Required Reading:**
Gerald J. Ens, “Metis Ethnicity, Personal Identity and the Development of Capitalism in the Western Interior,” in From Rupert’s land to Canada.161-177.

**Note: Mid-Term Test Friday Feb. 29**

Week Eight (March 3-7): Commercial Expansion from the South, Fort Benton and the Whiskey Trade

**Required Reading:**
Friesen, chapter 7

**Week Nine (March 10-14): Expansionism and the Transfer, The Resistance at Red River**

Required Reading: Friesen, chapter 6;


**Week Ten (March 17-19): Change and Continuity after the Transfer**

*Note: No lecture Good Friday March 21*


**Week Eleven (March 24-28):**

**The Treaty Process, Plans for Assimilation, Colonization**

Required Reading: Friesen, chapter 7


*Note: Term Papers Due, Friday March 28 in class.*

**Week Twelve (March 31-April 4):**

**Provincial and Territorial Administration and Politics**

Required Reading: Friesen Chapter 9

Document: Map and Descriptions of townships 39 through 45, Range I, West of 3rd Meridian, *Descriptions of the Townships of the Northwest Territories*, 1886
Week Thirteen (April 7-11):
1885 and Fallout
Required Reading: Friesen, Chapter 10
And, Sarah Carter, intro to, Two Months in the Camp of Big Bear.

Document: the Regina Leader’s “Interview with Riel,” November 19, 1885

Week Fourteen (April 14-18):
The West as Canadian Colony: the CPR, Settlement Planning and the National Policy before 1896
Friesen, Chapter 8; 11

End of Lectures

Reserve Readings:

Carter, Sarah, ed., Two Months in the Camp of Big Bear: the Life and Adventures of Theresa Gowanlock and Theresa Delaney (Regina: Great Plains Research Center, 1999).

Carter, Sarah, Aboriginal People and Colonizers of Western Canada to 1900 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999).


Thistle, Paul, Indian-European Trade Relations in the Lower Saskatchewan River Region to 1840 (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1986).
