

## **NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY HIS 271 - THE AMERICAN FRONTIER 1607–1890 (3 CR.)**

### **Course Description**

Studies the expansion across North America by peoples of Old World descent, the interaction of these settlers with the native nations they encountered, and the effects of this dynamic zone of contact between Old World and New World on American society, values, identity, and character. Lecture 3 hours per week.

### **General Course Purpose**

To produce an awareness of the significance of the Frontier in American History, the interaction in the frontier regions between the native peoples and the Euro- and African-Americans intruders, and the causes and consequences of the movement of the frontier westward.

### **Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

No prerequisites. College-level reading and writing skills expected.

### **Course Objectives**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Critically assess the theories that assert that the Frontier shaped the American character.
- Understand the role of the west in reshaping American institutions
- Appreciate the cultures of Native Nations who lived in the path of westward expansion and understand the response of these Nations to the intruders
- Perform researching, reading, writing, and critical thinking about the American Frontier

### **Major Topics to be Included**

- Frederick Jackson Turner's Frontier Thesis and its Critics.
- European and African American Adaptation to the Frontier.
- Colonization and European-Native Conflict in the Original Thirteen Colonies.
- The French and Indian War.
- Forced Removal of the Five Tribes, the Trail of Tears.
- Transportation Technology and the West.
- Changing Environment of the Great Plains Including Disease, Buffalo Slaughter, and Cattle.
- Insurgency in Texas, the US Mexico War, and California Indian Genocide.
- The Homestead and Dawes Acts and Their Consequences.
- The Wild West in Popular Culture, Myth and Fact.
- The West and American Political Institutions, Political Machines and Populism.
- "Kill the Indian Save the Man" and Indian Boarding Schools.
- Manifest Destiny in Samoa, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Guam.