

Wild Wide West, the Making of the American Identity

(voyages, territoires, frontières, axe 2 : ancrage et héritage)

western, a genre of novels and short stories, motion pictures, and television and radio shows that are set in the American West

How has the western genre evolved alongside American society ?

At the end of the Unit, I will

- know more about how the western genre evolved
- the reason for the Conquest of the West
- watched a movie

What documents will be used ?

1- Wild Wide West : the origin

1a- Defining the Manifest Destiny (dossiers)

1b- Jefferson's Confidential Letter to Congress, *abridged from Thomas: Jefferson* Jan. 18. 1803

1c- John Gast, *Spirit of the frontier*, 1872

1d- We've got to protect this frontier, Larry Mc Murtry, *Lonesome Dove*, 1985:

2- Western genre expectations

2a- 'The American epic': Hollywood's enduring love for the western abridged from Stuart Milller, *theguardian.com*, October 21, 2016

2b- Danger Ahead, Larry Mc Murtry, *Lonesome Dove*, 1985

2c- *The Hallelujah Trail*, movie still by John Sturges, 1965

2d- Goodies and Baddies, Charles Portis, *True Grit*, 1968

3- Overcoming clichés

3a- A strange encounter, Larry Mc Murtry, *Lonesome Dove*, 1985

3b- 1st encoutering with the Indians, *Dances with Wolves*, movie by Kevin Costner, September 1991

3c- Afterword, Michael Blake, *Dances with Wolves*, 1988

3d- 'Dances with Wolves' - Natives portrayed honestly and sympathetically, Abridged from a Windspeaker Publication, by Scott Ross, 1990,

4- an eclectic genre

4a- Buzz Lightyear's Arrival, Toy Story, Pixar Animation, 1995

4b1- 20th century cowboys, Annie Proulx, "*Brokeback Mountain*", 1997

4b2- *Brokeback Mountain* (United States, 2005), A movie review by James Berardinelli

4c- The Mandalorian is definitely a western. And not just one specific kind. Matt Singer, *screenruch.com*, December 6, 2019

5- Forever Western

	<p>5a- Outstanding Cowboys Text A: Cowgirls, adapted from <i>Cowgirl Country, Sunday Magazine</i>, 2011 Text B: Eco Cowboy, Wildideabuffalo.com, 2015</p> <p>5b- Bodie, California's Wild West Ghost Town, photos by Harry Sherrin: présentation genially by proflegrand78</p> <p>5c- A Spaghetti Western becomes a cute cartoon in AT&T's latest cinema mashup, Alexandra Jardine, excerpted from <i>adage.com</i>, May 24, 2019</p> <p>5d1- Lil Nas X at the 62nd Grammy Awards January 26, 2020 5d2- video + lyrics "Old Town Road" Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus</p>
What will I learn about ?	<p>The origin of the western genre how it is linked to the American history what makes it so special</p>
Final Task	<p>You will introduce us to an incipit, a back cover or a movie synopsis focusing on at least 3 aspects as developed in the Unit. You will need to write the critic of somebody else's piece of work in class.</p>

Instruction for your Final Task

- 1- You will have an hour and half for both exercise.
- 2- you will have to write the incipit, the back cover of your book or a movie synopsis in class, then exchange your piece of paper with somebody else's.
- 3- Your teacher will give you a number in order to keep your name anonymity. **DO NOT FORGET TO COPY YOUR NUMBER** from the grading sheet and **PUT YOUR NAME** on your grading sheet. Any copies without number and name will lose 2 points.
- 4- Once you will have written your incipit, back cover or movie synopsis, your paper will be exchanged with somebody else's. **ON ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER**, you will write a short critic of the book and the movie as if you had read or seen it. You must enclose elements from the unit in order to explain your critic.
- 5- Limited time (45 minutes) will be given for you to finish your 1st essay. Once the time is up, your paper will be taken away whether you are done or not.
- 6- You may write 2 critics if you had enough time to do so: one extra point will be given to you and the best grade will be counted.