Doane College at Grand Island  
ENG 329W Great Plains Studies

Instructor – Randy Blair  
Phone – (308) 380-4566  
E-Mail – randy.blair@doane.edu  
Office Hours – By Appointment

Course Description:  
An interdisciplinary examination of the cultures of the Great Plains, through discussions of literature, arts (including architecture), history, religions, mythology, and folklore. The geography, which gives the Great Plains its sense of place as well as its current issues concerning future development, is also examined. The outcome for students of the course should be an enhanced perspective on this part of North America, where Doane College is located. This course fulfills the Cultural Perspectives requirement of the Doane Plan.

Required Texts:  
Note that *O Pioneers* and *Indian Boyhood* might possibly be obtained free of charge through Amazon.com if you have a Kindle or iPad

*O Pioneers* by Willa Cather - ISBN-10: 089966976X  
The Children’s Blizzard by David Laskin - ISBN-10: 0060520752  

Additional handouts and reading materials to support the examination of the Great Plains may be added and provided to the class.

Grading:  
Students will be able to obtain a total of 100 points. Amount of points per assignment are as follows:

20 points each – three reaction papers, 3 – 4 pages in length (double-spaced), one for each of the books that we will read. For each reaction paper, write an overview of what the main point (theme) of the story was and how the story affected you. Discuss one of the characters or a significant event in the story to whom or to which you most identified and why.  
40 points – final examination (open book, open note).

Grading Scale –

A = 90 – 100  
B = 80 – 89  
C = 70 – 79  
D = 60 – 69  
F = <60

Class Policies:  
All reading assignments for discussion should be read prior to course meetings.  
Email access is mandatory. Correspondence between professor and students outside of class will be handled through email.  
Attendance is mandatory – please advise me of necessary absences prior to each class.  
Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior approval is obtained.