American Places II: Frontier Nation

* Answer all parts of the following essay question
* Support your analyses with relevant historical evidence from assigned course texts

The myth of the American frontier “claims the land for the European settler as a God given right. It also excludes non-whites from the story of how the United States came to be what it is, and when it does mention non-whites (Native Americans in particular), it treats them as an obstacle to the advance of civilization. Hence, it is not surprising that Americans struggle with the frontier myth legacy.” -- Cynara Medina

* Write an essay in critical response to the claims made in the statement quoted above.
* Is Medina correct in her characterizations of the frontier myth?
* What explanations can you provide for the frontier myth’s North American origins, growth and popularity from the 1600s through the 1800s?
* What in your analysis has been what Medina calls the “legacy” of this myth?
* To what extent do you agree with her claim that Americans “struggle” with it?
* Should we? Do you?

**Incorporate evidence into your analysis from course readings, including from at least three of the following:**

* Mary Rowlandson’s *Captivity Narrative* (1685)
* President Jackson’s *Speech on Indian Removal* (1839)
* John O’Sullivan on Manifest Destiny
* Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Significance of the Frontier* (1893)

**Incorporate evidence into your analysis from course films, including from at least two of the following:**

* *We Shall Remain – After the Mayflower*
* *Ghost Dance*
* *Buffalo Bill*
* *Hostiles* (2017; Scott Cooper, director)

**Exam Length:** Four (4) full pages minimum. Six (6) full pages maximum.

**Format:** typed (12 point font, double spaced one inch margins); separate cover page with full course information; separate Works Cited page; pages numbered and stapled together.

**Date and Time Due:** Wednesday May 9th no later than 1:35 PM