

**Hunter College of the City University of New York
POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA
EXTRA CREDIT EXERCISE for EXAM THREE**

Transcontinental Railroads across the American West
Due no later than the start of the exam.

This take home extra credit question may add as many as 5 points to your exam grade. Consult a road atlas, *Goode's World Atlas*, any historical atlas, *National Park Service (www.nps.gov)*, *Google Earth* or other satellite image web site, web-based search engines, and your textbook.



1. Select ONE transcontinental railroad from the list at right:
2. Describe the route of the original right-of-way from its eastern starting point to its western terminus.
 - a. Compare the eastern terminal region with the western terminal area.
 - b. Describe all the landform regions encountered by the surveyors of the rail line.
 - c. Describe any major impediments encountered by the builders (physical, human) along the way and what was done to mitigate them.
 - d. Select one town along your selected route that was created after the railroad was built. Describe how the railroad and the town changed the local area. Include in your discussion linkage to subsidiary rail lines and other regions if pertinent.
3. For the rail line selected, show **2 natural landmarks** (i.e., geologic formations, mountain passes, rivers) and **2 historic sites** (i.e., fort, supply station, depot, stock yards) and give their significance to the railroad company
4. Illustrate them by providing the following: A readable postcard, photograph, historic sketch or image of **each** of the four places in paragraph 3.
5. When assembling your extra credit assignment for submission, create a **cover page** with (a) your name, (b) course number and (c) exercise name. (d) Include a map of the U.S. with your rail line shown and the location of the places discussed in 2, 3 and 4 above circled or yellow-highlighted.

Transcontinental
Railroads
(select just one)

- A) Canadian Pacific
- B) Northern Pacific
- C) Union/Central Pacific
- D) Southern Pacific

Late hand-ins will NOT be accepted for this exam extra credit.