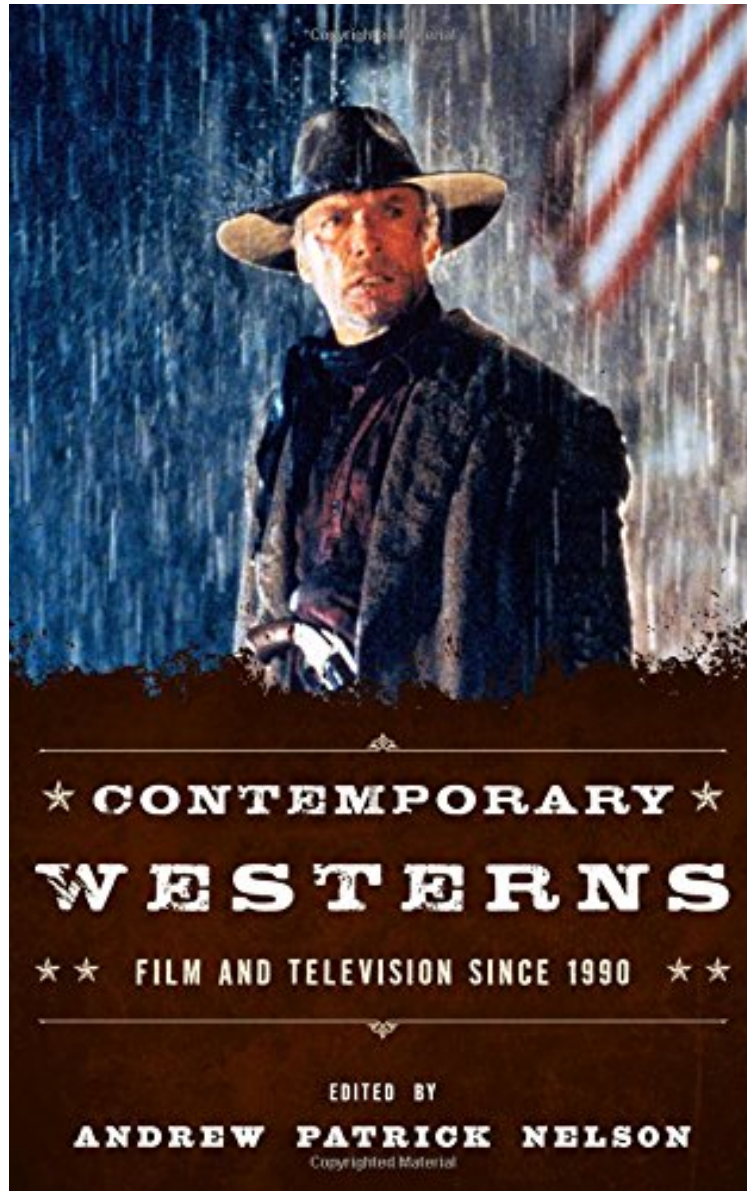


Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television since 1990

From Scarecrow Press

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From Scarecrow Press : Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television since 1990 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television since 1990:

Though one of the most popular genres for decades, the western started to lose its relevance in the 1960s and 1970s, and by the early 1980s it had ridden into the sunset on screens both big and small. The genre has enjoyed a resurgence, however, and in the past few decades some remarkable westerns have appeared on television and in movie theaters. From independent films to critically acclaimed Hollywood productions and television series, the western remains an important part of American popular culture. Running the gamut from traditional to revisionist, with settings ranging from the old West to the new Wests of the present day and distant future, contemporary westerns continue to explore the history, geography, myths, and legends of the American frontier. In *Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television since 1990*, Andrew P. Nelson has collected essays that examine the trends and transformations in this underexplored period in Western film and television history. Addressing the new Western, they argue for the continued relevance and vibrancy of the genre as a narrative form. The book is organized into two sections: *Old West, New Stories* examines Westerns with common frontier locales, such as *Dances with Wolves*, *Unforgiven*, *Deadwood*, and *True Grit*. *New Wests, Old Stories* explores works in which familiar Western narratives, characters, and values are represented in more modern and in one case futuristic settings. Included are the films *No Country for Old Men* and *There Will Be Blood*, as well as the shows *Firefly* and *Justified*. With a foreword by Edward Buscombe, as well as an introduction that provides a comprehensive overview, this volume offers readers a compelling argument for the healthy survival of the Western. Written for scholars as well as educated viewers, *Contemporary Westerns* explores the genre's evolving relationship with American culture, history, and politics.

A valuable reference work for libraries, *Contemporary Westerns* is also a useful tool for scholars in film, gender studies, literature, popular culture, and Western studies. (*Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*) The most successful essays in the book...find innovative, unexpected ways to situate the works on which they focus in a broader genre landscape....The insights offered by Nelson, Danks, and especially Matheson will be of interest to anyone with a serious interest in film and television Westerns, and scholars with a specific interest in any of the other films covered will want to consult the relevant essay. (*The Journal of American Culture*) About the Author Andrew Patrick Nelson is assistant professor of film history and critical studies in the School of Film and Photography at Montana State University. His essays appear in *Cinephile*, *American Horror Film: The Genre at the Turn of the Millennium*, *The Philosophy of Steven Soderbergh*, and *Love in Western Film and Television*.