

Through Native Eyes: Native American History, 1491-1865

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Course Times and Location: M, W, F 1:15-2:05 p.m., Alumni Recitation Hall 324
Office Hours: Monday 2:15-3:15, Wednesday 2:15-3:15, Friday 2:15-4, and by
appointment

PURPOSE:

This course offers a social, environmental, political, and cultural history of early America from the perspectives of Native Americans. From the point of view of Native Americans, we will examine many familiar topics, like European exploration of North America, the founding of European colonies, warfare among European powers, slavery, and the American Revolution.

Aside from the material directly related to Native American history, a goal of the course is to facilitate your ability to be a discerning consumer of information and to improve your capacity to participate in public life.

FORMAT:

For most of the semester, class meetings will focus on discussions of the assigned reading. For three weeks of the semester, we will play a game in which you take on the persona of an interpreter, American Indian, or British colonist in Pennsylvania to end a vicious and destructive war between the colony of Pennsylvania and the Delaware Indians. During the game, you will run the class sessions. I will merely resolve disputes and rule on special matters. The success of the course and your individual grade depends heavily on your class participation. It is essential that you attend every class prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

EVALUATION:

Announced and Unannounced Quizzes (5%)

Oral Presentations (10%)

Participation (20%)

Précis (20%)

3 Short papers (one 2-3 page paper; and two Forest Diplomacy papers) (30%)

Mid-Term Exam (10%)

Final Exam (10%)

A note on the précis:

These are 3-5 sentence summaries of the **main argument or thesis** of the assigned reading. These are not discussions of the themes or topics of the reading. In addition to explaining the author's main point, the précis should explain the idea(s) that the author is responding to. Articles, essays, and books are written in response to the work of previous scholars. Your précis must explain how the author's argument builds on and/or challenges the scholarship of others.

The précis are due at the beginning of class. Your précis are meant to help you participate in that day's discussion. I will not accept late précis.

BOOKS:

(1) Edmunds, Hoxie, and Salisbury, *The People: A History of Native America*, Vol. 1 (optional)

(2) David Richter, *Facing East: From Indian Country*

(3) James Merrell, *Into the Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier*

(3) Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire*

(4) Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*

(5) William Apess, *A Son of the Forest and Other Writings*

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK ONE (Aug. 28):

INTRODUCTION

Friday, Aug. 28

Reading: None.

Film: Harold of Orange

WEEK TWO (Aug. 31-Sept. 4)

ORIGINS AND EVIDENCE

Mon., Aug. 31

Reading:

- 1) Charles Mann, "A View from Above," fr. C. Mann, 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus (photocopy)
- 2) Colin G. Calloway, "Introduction: American Indians in American History," fr. C. Calloway, First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of American Indian History (photocopy)

ORIGINS AND EVIDENCE (II)

Wed., Sept. 2

Documentary: "First Contact"

Fri., Sept. 4

Reading:

- 1) Navajo Emergence Story (pdf)
- 2) Vine Deloria, "Science and the Oral Tradition," fr. Red Earth, White Lies (pdf)
- 3) Charles Mann, "Pleistocene Wars," fr. C. Mann, 1491 (pdf)

WEEK THREE (Sept. 7-11)

THE ECOLOGICAL INDIAN

Mon., Sept. 7

Reading:

- 1) Shepard Krech III, "Buffalo" in Myth and History: The Ecological Indian (pdf)
- 2) Richard White, "Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?: Work and Nature" (pdf)

Précis #1: R. White's "Are You an Environmentalist"

FIRST MEETINGS

Wed., Sept. 9

Reading:

- 1) Josiah Jeremy, "The Floating Island" (1869) (pdf)
- 2) John Heckewelder, "The Arrival of the Dutch" (ca. 1765) (pdf)
- 3) Daniel K. Richter, Ch. 1, "Imagining a Distant World" in Facing East

Fri., Sept. 11 (NO CLASS)

WEEK FOUR (Sept. 14-18)

A MATERIAL NEW WORLD

Mon., Sept. 14

Reading:

- 1) Bruce G. Trigger, "Early Native North American Responses to European Contact: Romantic versus Rationalist Interpretations," The Journal of American History, Vol. 77, No. 4 (Mar., 1991), 1195-1215. (JSTOR).

Précis #2 due: Trigger's article

Wed., Sept. 16

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 2, "Confronting a Material New World," in Facing East
- 2) Alfred Crosby, "Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America," William and Mary Quarterly, Third Series, Vol. 33, No. 2 (April 1976): 289-299. (JSTOR)

ANIMALS

Fri., Sept. 18

Reading: Virginia DeJohn Anderson, "King Philip's Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Ser. 51 (1994), 601-24. (JSTOR)

WEEK FIVE (Sept. 21-25)

Mon., Sept. 21

Reading: Rebecca Kugel, "Of Missionaries and Their Cattle: Ojibwa Perceptions of a Missionary as Evil Shaman," Ethnohistory 37:1 (Winter 1990), 45-65. (JSTOR)

Précis #3 due: Kugel's article

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Wed., Sept. 23

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 3, "Living with Europeans," in Facing East
- 2) Begin reading Richard White, "The Middle Ground" from R. White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (pdf)

Fri., Sept. 25

Reading:

- 1) Finish Richard White, "The Middle Ground"

- 2) Begin R. White, "The Fur Trade" (same pdf as "The Middle Ground")

Précis #4 due: White, "The Middle Ground"

WEEK SIX (Sept. 28-Oct. 2)

Mon., Sept. 28

Reading:

- 1) Finish R. White, "The Fur Trade"

Wed., Sept. 30

In-class EXAM

WARFARE

Thur., Oct. 1, 7 p.m., place to be determined

Film: "Black Robe"

Fri., Oct. 2

1) Reading:

Daniel K. Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser. 40 (1983), 528-59 (JSTOR)

2) "The Ordeal of Isaac Jogues" (pdf)

3) Optional: James Axtell, "The Unkindest Cut, or Who Invented Scalping?" in The European and the Indian: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America (pdf)

Precis #5 due: Richter's "War and Culture"

WEEK SEVEN (Oct. 5-9)

Mon., Oct. 5

Reading:

1) Excerpt from Jesuit Relations (pdf)

2) Ward Churchill, "And They Did It Like Dogs in the Dirt" (pdf)

3) Ian K. Steele, "Dutch Fort Orange (Albany) and the Five Nations, 1624-1684" (pdf)

Tue., Oct. 6

Assignment due: 3-4 page paper. Send via email attachment by 5 p.m.

AN IMPERIAL WORLD

Wed., Oct. 7

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 4, "Native Voices in a Colonial World," Facing East

Fri., Oct. 9

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 5, "Native Peoples in an Imperial World," Facing East

WEEK EIGHT (Oct. 12-16)

Mon., Oct. 12

Reading:

- 1) Peter Silver, "Fearing Indians," in P. Silver, Our Savage Neighbors (pdf)

Précis #6 due: Silver, "Fearing Indians"

FOREST DIPLOMACY: WAR, PEACE, AND LAND ON THE COLONIAL FRONTIER

Wed., Oct. 14: Context (II)

Fri., Oct. 16: Context (III)

Fall Break (October 18-26)

WEEK NINE (Oct. 26-30)

Mon., Oct. 26: First Reports

Wed., Oct. 28: Ceremonies and Opening Oratory

Fri., Oct. 30: Response Oratory

WEEK TEN (Nov. 2-6)

Mon., Nov. 2: Treaties Clarified and Finalized

Wed., Nov. 4: Implementation (Second Reports)

Fri., Nov. 6: Denouement (Game Outcome)

WARS AND REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ELEVEN (Nov. 9-13)

Mon., Nov. 9

Reading:

- 1) Daniel Richter, Ch. 6 "Separate Creations," Facing East
- 2) "An Account of the Paxton Boys' Murder of the Conestoga Indians," (<http://www.explorepahistory.com/odocument.php?docId=39>)
- 3) "An Anti-Quaker Defense of the Paxton Boys" (<http://www.explorepahistory.com/odocument.php?docId=37>)

Wed., Nov. 11

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, "Epilogue"
- 2) Colin Calloway, "'We Have Always Been the Frontier': The American Revolution in Shawnee Country," *American Indian Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Winter 1992), 39-52 (JSTOR)

Précis #7: Calloway's "We Have Always Been the Frontier"

EXPANSION

Fri., Nov. 13

Reading:

- 1) Pekka Hamalainen, The Comanche Empire, Introduction and Chapter 1

WEEK TWELVE (Nov. 16-20)

Mon., Nov. 16

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, Comanche Empire, Chapters 2-3

Wed., Nov. 18

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, Comanche Empire, Chapters 4-5

Fri., Nov. 20

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, Comanche Empire, Chapters 6-7

WEEK THIRTEEN (Nov. 23-25)

Mon., Nov. 23

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, Comanche Empire, Chapter 8 and Conclusion

Wed., Nov. 25: NO CLASS

Happy Thanksgiving!

WEEK FOURTEEN (Nov. 30-Dec. 4)

IDENTITY

Mon., Nov. 30

Reading:

- 1) William Apess, "A Son of the Forest" in Apess, A Son of the Forest and Other Writings

SLAVERY

Wed., Dec. 2

Reading:

- 1) Tiya Miles, The Ties That Bind, Introduction – Chapter 3

Fri., Dec. 4

Reading:

- 1) Tiya Miles, The Ties That Bind, Chapters 4-7

WEEK FIFTEEN (Dec. 7-11)

Mon., Dec. 7

Reading:

- 1) Tiya Miles, Ties That Bind, Chapters 8-Coda

CONCLUSIONS

Wed., Dec. 9

Reading:

- 1) Richard White, "The Winning of the West: The Expansion of the Western Sioux in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries," (JSTOR)

Fri., Dec. 11

Reading: none

Thur., Dec. 17, 9 a.m.

FINAL EXAM