Native American History, ca. 1450-1900

[The official, up-to-date syllabus for this course is online at http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/gkornbl/H325F09/.]

This course approaches Native American experience from a sympathetic yet unromantic cultural perspective. We begin with the premise that Native Americans were active agents in producing their history both before and after the European invasion of North America—not just victims of white oppression and/or abstract social forces. Topics include cultural diversity in North America on the eve of European colonization; the dynamics of early Indian-European encounters in different regions of North America; the role of slavery in Native American societies and in Indian-European relations; the political and spiritual dimensions of accommodation and resistance to Euro-American expansion in the eighteenth century; the construction and reconstruction of Indian identities in the era of the American Revolution; forced Indian Removal; and the nineteenth-century struggles for the Great Plains and the Great Basin. Emphasis will be placed on current scholarly debates and varieties of historical analysis. Students are encouraged to think independently, and student participation in class discussions (both online and face-to-face) is essential to the success of the course. Written work, like class discussions, will focus on the wide-ranging and intellectually challenging assigned readings.

Format: The class meets regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:20 p.m. Class attendance is mandatory, participation in class discussions is expected, and students are also required to post a question for group consideration on Blackboard in advance of class sessions.

Evaluation: Students will be graded on the basis of class participation, including postings on Blackboard, and two analytical essays. The basic formula is 30% for class participation, 30% for the first essay (8-10 pages), and 40% for the second essay (10-12 pages). The professor reserves the right to exercise some discretion in assigning final grades.

Writing Certification: Students may earn "writing proficiency credit" in this course if, in the judgment of the professor, they meet the criteria of Oberlin's writing requirement. Please notify the professor at the beginning of the semester if you are taking the course for writing certification.

Honor Code: All course work is governed by Oberlin's Honor Code. If you have a question about how the Honor Code applies to a particular assignment, you should ask the professor in advance of the due date.

Purchases: The following books should be bought and brought to class for the relevant discussions. They are available for purchase at the Oberlin Bookstore.

- Richard White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region,
1650-1815 (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1991)
• James H. Merrell, ed., The Lancaster Treaty of 1744 with Related Documents (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008)

Schedule of classes and assignments:

Introduction

Tues., Sept. 1

Perspectives and Methodologies

Thurs., Sept. 3

• Calvin Martin, "An Introduction Aboard the Fidèle" in Martin, ed., The American Indian and the Problem of History (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), 3-26 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]
• Devon Abbott Mihesuah, "Should American Indian History Remain a Field of Study?" in Devon Abbott Mihesuah and Angela Cavender Wilson, eds., Indigenizing the Academy: Transforming Scholarship and Empowering Communities (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 143-159 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]

America before European Invasion

Tues., Sept. 8

• Calloway, One Vast Winter Count, xvii, 1-115

Thurs., Sept. 10

• Ramón A.Gutiérrez, When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away, 3-36 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]
• Shepard Krech III, The Ecological Indian: Myth and History, 101-122 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]
• Neal Salisbury, "The Indians' Old World: Native Americans and the Coming of Europeans," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd
Tues., Sept. 15

- Calloway, *One Vast Winter Count*, 119-163
- Ramón A. Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away*, 39-94 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]

Thurs., Sept. 17

- Calloway, *One Vast Winter Count*, 165-211, 267-293
- Juliana Barr, "*A Diplomacy of Gender: Rituals of First Contact in the 'Land of the Tejas'*," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., 61 (July 2004): 393-434 [in History Cooperative, accessible from a campus computer]

Tues., Sept. 22

- Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country*, 1-109

Thurs., Sept. 24

- Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country*, 110-150

Tues., Sept. 29


Thurs., Oct. 1

- Gallay, *The Indian Slave Trade*, 257-357

Tues., Oct. 6

- White, *The Middle Ground*, ix-xvi, 1-93

Thurs., Oct. 8

- White, *The Middle Ground*, 94-141
- Susan Sleeper-Smith, *Indian Women and French Men*, 38-53 [on Blackboard under Course Documents]
- Brett Rushforth, "*A Little Flesh We Offer You*: The Origins of
Taking Stock at Mid-Semester

Tues., Oct. 13

Review course readings to date

Thurs., Oct. 15

First paper due; no class

---

Fall Break

---

War and Peace in the Early Eighteenth Century

Tues., Oct. 27

- Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country*, 151-179

Thurs., Oct. 29


---

The View from a Creek Town

Tues., Nov. 3

- Piker, *Okfuskee*, 1-108

Thurs., Nov. 5

- Piker, *Okfuskee*, 109-204

Guest participant: Joshua Piker, OC '89

---

Pan-Indianism and Native Responses to the Rise of the United States

Tues., Nov. 10


Thurs., Nov. 12

- Dowd, *A Spirited Resistance*, 90-190
Indian Removal

Tues., Nov. 17

- Miles, Ties That Bind, xiii-xvi, 1-128

Thurs., Nov. 19

- Miles, Ties That Bind, 129-215

Struggles for the Great Plains

Tues., Nov. 24

- Calloway, ed., Our Hearts Fell to the Ground, 1-36, 56-101, 111-204

Thurs. Nov. 26

Thanksgiving; no class

Struggles for the Great Basin

Tues., Dec. 1

- Blackhawk, Violence over the Land, 1-15, 55-87, 119-175

Thurs., Dec. 3

- Blackhawk, Violence over the Land, 176-266

Conclusions

Tues., Dec. 8

- Blackhawk, Violence over the Land, 267-293

Thurs., Dec. 10

No class

Mon., Dec. 14

Second paper due at end of reading period