

Hist2018: NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY, c. 1450-1814

Professor: Strother Roberts
Meeting Time: M/W 11:30am-12:55pm
Room: Visual Arts Center - North (#304)

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Office Hours: W 1-4 & by appt

Course Description: The indigenous peoples of North America have a long and diverse history (histories, really) stretching back at least 15,000 years. Since European explorers first united the world's two hemispheres at the turn of the sixteenth century, native communities have faced numerous challenges and fallen victim to often unimaginable hardship. Native cultures showed amazing adaptability in the face of these challenges: embracing the opportunities of new trade networks, incorporating new religious ideas and economic strategies with older practices, and welcoming newcomers from Europe and Africa into their own communities. Through centuries of imperial oppression, American Indians proved tenacious in fighting for their rights and insisting on their proper place in an evolving environmental, political, and social landscape. This survey of North American Indian history traces how these shared struggles led to a dawning sense of a pan-Indian racial and cultural identity in the early nineteenth century.

Assignments:

Very Short Assignments (VSAs) - One paragraph responses to the day's readings. 2-3 questions on each day's readings will be posted online to help direct you in writing these responses and to stimulate thought for in-class discussion. Response Papers will be due by the beginning of each class session. (Exceptions: WEEK 1, Oct 5, Oct 14, Nov 9, WEEK 12, Dec 2, WEEK 15 & WEEK 16.) Please post your VSAs to Blackboard.

Primary Source Analysis Paper (Hakluyt Paper) - 3-5 double-spaced pages analyzing the themes contained in the primary source passage and explaining how it could be used by historians.

Three Papers – 3-5 pages, double-spaced, answering a question to be given a week prior to their due date

Final Paper – ≈10 pages of short identifications and essay(s)

Grading:

VSAs 10%; Primary Source Analysis Paper 10%; Three 3-5 page assignments each worth 15%; One 8-10 page final paper worth 25% ; Participation 10%

Attendance:

You will not receive any credit directly for attendance, but more than three unexcused absences will result in the loss of a full letter grade in the course. Five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Multimedia: I will start many of my lectures with a brief film clip from a movie or television program that relates to that day's theme. These clips will be posted to Blackboard. Keep in mind how each clip depicts Native American culture and history and, as the course progresses, think about what these depictions can tell us about how Euro-American society of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries have viewed modern Native Americans and their historical contributions.

Required Texts:

1. Nancy Shoemaker, *Strange Likeness: Becoming Red and White in Eighteenth Century North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006)
2. Julie A. Fisher and David J. Silverman, *Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansets: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014)
3. All readings labeled “DOCUMENTS” below will be handed out for in-class discussion
4. All other readings will be available online through Blackboard

Distribution Requirements met by this Course:

International Perspectives: This course will survey the histories of a broad number of Native American nations, as well as exploring the processes by which Native Americans created new nations in response to changing environmental and political conditions. Students will study Native American diplomacy and how this played into military competition both among Native nations and between Native powers and the European empires of Spain, England, France and Dutch. Finally, this course will explore how some Native nations responded to the expansionism of the United States by developing a new pan-Indian political identity.

Exploring Social Differences: This course will explore the differences in social practices that have historically existed between both Native American and Euro-American societies, and between separate Indian nations. Students will be asked to contrast Native and European approaches to structuring political authority and labor regimes within their societies, as well as exploring the differing understandings that Natives and Europeans had of the physical world around them. We will also compare the differing approaches that Native communities took in responding to new diseases and European imperialism.

WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be an integral part of this course. The syllabus, descriptions of assignments, useful guides, and any changes hereafter will be posted there. You are required to check Blackboard regularly and will be responsible for all material on the course site.

CITATION OF SOURCES: When referring to sources (primary and secondary) in your papers, you should provide a complete citation including author, title, publisher, place and date of publication, and page numbers. Citations should follow the “Chicago-style” format commonly used by historians. I ask that you use footnotes with all of your paper assignments. The library website has citation information under “Get Started,” and I have included several links on Blackboard. Please see me if you have any questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students must read and abide by the Academic Honor and Social Code (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>). Suspected cases of plagiarism will result in a conference me, and, if unresolved at that point, will be referred to the Judicial Board. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a reference librarian or ask me.

WEEK 1: Introduction

Sept 7: Welcome to Class and Hermeneutics

- Donald L. Fixico, "Ethics and Responsibilities in Writing American Indian History," *American Indian Quarterly* 20, no. 1 (Winter 1996), 29-39 [≈10 pages]

Sept 9: Origin Stories: A 15,000-Year Sprint

- Tim Flannery, *The Eternal Frontier: An Ecological History of North America and its Peoples* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2011), 173-205. [≈30 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Creation Stories [≈10 pages]

WEEK 2: Native America

Sept 14: A Continent of Cultures

- Neal Salisbury, "The Indians' Old World: Native Americans and the Coming of Europeans," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 53, no. 3 (Jul. 1996), 435-458 [≈20 pages]
- Bruce G. Trigger, "Early Native North American Responses to European Contact," *The Journal of American History* 77, no. 4 (Mar. 1991) 1195-1215 [≈20 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Columbus & Early Spanish Observations [≈ 3 pages]

Sept 16: Native Americans in an Atlantic World

- Alfred Crosby, *Germes, Seeds, & Animals: Studies in Ecological History* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1994), ix-27, 45-61 [≈50 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Smallpox [≈4 pages]

WEEK 3: Contact

Sept 21: Europeans in a Native American World

- James Axtell, "Imagining the Other: First Encounters," in *Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 15-45 [≈30 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Early Explorers' Accounts [≈10 pages]

Sept 23: First Conquests in the Indies

- Richard Hakluyt, "Miles Philips Put On Shore in the West Indies," in Jack Beeching, ed., *Voyages and Discoveries: Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques & Discoveries of the English Nation* (London: Penguin Classics, 1972), 132-157 [≈25 pages]

WEEK 4: The Spanish Challenge

Sept 28: MesoAmerica

- Patricia R. Anawait, "Understanding Aztec Human Sacrifice," *Archaeology* 35, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1982), 38-45 [≈20 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: The Aztecs (Miguel León Portillo) [≈5 pages]

Sept 30: Building a Mestizo Culture

- Pekka Hämmäläinen, "The Politics of Grass: European Expansion, Ecological Change, and Indigenous Power in the Southwest Borderlands," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 67, no. 2 (April 2010), 173-208 [≈35 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Pueblo Revolt [≈5 pages]

WEEK 5: In the East

Oct 5: Origins of Globalization

- Sylvia Van Kirk, *Many Tender Ties: Women in Fur Trade Society* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1983), 75-95 excerpt [≈20 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Indians in the Fur Trade [≈5 pages]
- ***HAKLUYT PAPER DUE***

Oct 7: The Challenge of the English

- Neal Salisbury, “Squanto: Last of the Patuxet,” in Ian Kenneth Steel and Nancy L. Rhoden, eds., *The Human Tradition in Colonial America* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1999), 21-35 [≈15 pages]
- Kathleen Brown, “In Search of Pocahontas,” in Ian Kenneth Steel and Nancy L. Rhoden, eds., *The Human Tradition in Colonial America* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1999), 71-95 [≈25 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Powhatan & Squanto [≈3 pages]

WEEK 6: Time to Reflect & The Northeast, Part I

Oct 12: **No Class: Columbus Day “Fall Break”**

Oct 14: New England: Sure, it’s new, but is it really all that English?

- Julie A. Fisher and David J. Silverman, *Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansets: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014), vii-54 [≈70 pages]
- ***FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE ***

WEEK 7: Understanding One Another

Oct 19: Property, Family, and Politics

- Nancy Shoemaker, *Strange Likeness: Becoming Red and White in Eighteenth-Century North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 13-60, 105-125. [≈70 pages]

Oct 21: Race and Religion

- James Axtell, “The White Indians of Colonial America,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 32, no. 1 (Jan. 1975), 55-88 [≈30 pages]
- Shoemaker, *Strange Likeness*, 125-144. [≈20 pages]

WEEK 8: The Northeast, Parts II & III

Oct 26: New England: War and Ambition

- Fisher and Silverman, *Ninigret*, 84-134 [≈50 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Wabanaki Wit [≈ 2 pages]

Oct 28: The Great Lakes

- Daniel Richter, “War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 40, no. 4 (Oct. 1983), 528-559 [≈30 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: From the Jesuit Relations [≈5 pages]

WEEK 9: The West

Nov 2: Changes on the Plains

- Theodore Binnema, *Common & Contested Ground: A Human and Environmental History of the Northwestern Plains* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001) 86-128 [≈40 pages]

Nov 4: The Pacific Coast

- Steven W. Hackal, “Land, Labor, and Production: The Economy of Spanish and Mexican California” [≈25 pages]
- James R. Gibson, *Otter Skins, Boston Ships, and China Goods: The Maritime Fur Trade of the Northwest Coast* (Seattle : University of Washington Press, 1992), 36-61 [≈25 pages]

WEEK 10: Shifting Boundaries

Nov 9: Adaptation, Accommodation, and their Limits

- Virginia DeJohn Anderson, “King Philip's Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 51, no. 4 (Oct. 1994), 601-624 [≈25 pages]

SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE

Nov 11: Imperial Enemies and Allies: The “French and Indian Wars”

- Katherine M.J. McKenna, “Mary Brant (Konwatsi'tsiaienni Degonwadonti): “Miss Molly,” Feminist Role Model or Mohawk Princess?” in Ian Kenneth Steel and Nancy L. Rhoden, eds., *The Human Tradition in the American Revolution* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2000), 183-202 [≈20 pages]
- Shoemaker, *Strange Likeness*, 83-104. [≈20 pages]

WEEK 11: Wars for Independence

Nov 16: Native Americans and the American Revolution – The North

- Colin Calloway, “Stockbridge: The New England Patriots,” in *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities* (New York : Cambridge University Press, 1995), 85-107 [≈20 pages]
- Colin Calloway, “‘We Have Always Been the Frontier’: The American Revolution in Shawnee Country,” *American Indian Quarterly* 16, no. 1 (Winter 1992), 39-52 [≈15 pages]
- Iroquois Diplomacy Documents [≈4 pages]

Nov 18: Native Americans and the American Revolution – The South

- Jon W. Parmenter, “Dragging Canoe (Tsi'yu-gūnsi'ni): Chickamauga Cherokee Patriot,” in Ian Kenneth Steel and Nancy L. Rhoden, eds., *The Human Tradition in the American Revolution* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2000), 117-138 [≈20 pages]
- James H. Merrell, *The Indian's New World: Catawbas and their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1991), 192-225 [≈35 pages]

WEEK 12: Didn't They Do A Brady Bunch Episode About This...?

Nov 23: MOVIE: *Reel Injuns*

Nov 25: **No Class: Thanksgiving Break**

WEEK 13: The “Empire of Liberty”: Liberty's dispossessed

Nov 30: The Roots of Removal

- Peter S. Onuf, “‘We Shall All Be Americans’: Thomas Jefferson and the Indians,” *Indiana Magazine of History* 95, no. 2 (June 1999), 103-141. [≈40 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Thomas Jefferson on Indians

Dec 2: The Northwest Confederacy

- DOCUMENTS: Northwest War [≈3 pages]
 - Leroy V. Eid, "American Indian Military Leadership: St. Clair's 1791 Defeat," *The Journal of Military History* 57, no. 1 (Jan. 1993), 71-88 [≈20 pages]
 - Wiley Sword, *President Washington's Indian War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1790-1795* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993), TBD
- *THIRD RESPONSE PAPER DUE***

WEEK 14: The Beginnings of a Pan-Indian Identity

Dec 7: Religious Pan-Indianism: Neolin, Handsome Lake, and Tenskwatawa

- Daniel Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2003), 189-236 [≈45 pages]

Dec 9: Pan-Indian Politics up to Tecumseh's/ The Red Sticks' War

- Patrick Bottiger, "Prophetstown for Their Own Purposes: The French, Miamis, and Cultural Identities in the Wabash-Maumee Valley," *Journal of the Early Republic* 33, no. 1 (Spring 2013), 29-60 [≈30 pages]
- Pekka Hämäläinen, "Lost in Transitions: Suffering, Survival, and Belonging in the Early Modern Atlantic World," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 68, no. 2 (April 2011), 219-223 [≈4 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Tecumseh's Speeches [≈5 pages]

WEEK 15: Reading Week

Dec 14: Optional Review Session

WEEK 16: Finals Week

Dec 16: Final Papers Due, 5:00pm