

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Spring, 2015

HISTORY 201  
*The Historian's Craft*

Professor John Sharpless  
263-1800, 263-1816

4110 Mosse Humanities Building

**COURSE CONTENT:**

This course sets as its goal the analysis of Native American/White relations in the "Middle West" – the area roughly inclusive of the Great Lakes region, the Ohio River basin, Northern Mississippi River valleys, and the Dakotas. The Wisconsin Territory sits at the center of this region.

The intent of the course is to provide a setting in which students will learn the skills of historical research, analysis and the production of an interpretive narrative of a historical event, person, community, geographic landscape or controversy. It is a writing intensive course that meets the requirements for "Comm B." History 201 is required of all history majors.

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS:**

Discussion sections will not meet the first week of classes. It should be stressed, however, that regular attendance at discussion section is required. Discussion points will be awarded to students who attend discussion sections regularly. There will also be regular short assignments to encourage reading and discussion on a weekly basis. There will also be occasional "think pieces" - longer essays on various topics due in section over the semester. A final long written assignment will serve in place of a final examination. The number, length and topics of these short essays will be determined by the TA.

There will be no mid-term or final examination. Your grade is primarily determined by written assignments over the semester. To "test" for attendance in lectures there will be occasional lecture quizzes. These little tests are very simple – a sure 5 to 10 points each if you're there to take them. If you miss them regularly it will likely drop you a full grade. If you miss one, it will be of minor consequence. The whole point of the quiz is to take attendance and, therefore, there are no "make-up" quizzes. **No exceptions.** The weight for each of the course requirements are roughly as follows:

Lecture Quizzes	10%
Discussion Section Points [short weekly assignments & attendance points]	65%
Final Project Proposal	25%

**REQUIRED READING:**

**Students are warned that the reading requirements for the course are considerable.**

The "required" books listed below may be purchased at the University Bookstore or online at various web vendors. "Used" copies may be substituted for current editions although the pages numbers on the reading calendar may be a bit different. There are copies at the UW Libraries. The books are relatively expensive so it's understandable if you might postpone purchasing them. But, be warned, as the assignment's due date approaches you may have trouble finding a copy. That's NOT our problem. You will be held accountable for doing the reading regardless of whether the book is immediately available; so it's perhaps best to purchase all the books early in the semester.

There will be reading material at the History 201 web site [Learn@UW]. We will post the material and indicate what reading is required and what is optional. The material on the website is as important as the book reading assignments. Students will be allowed access to the web site on the second week of the course.

### **Required Reading:**

1. Daniel Richter. *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* [Paperback, Harvard University Press: 2003] ISBN-10: 0674011171.
2. Lucy Murphy, *A Gathering of Rivers: Indians, Metis, and Mining in the Western Great Lakes, 1737-1832* [Paperback, University of Nebraska Press: 2004] ISBN-10: 0803282931.
3. Roger L. Nichols. *Black Hawk and the Warrior's Path*. [Paperback, Harlan Davidson: 1992] ISBN 0882958844.
4. Thomas Powers, *The Killing of Crazy Horse* [(Vintage paperback, 2011) ISBN 10:0375714308

### **Recommended Readings:**

- William K. Storey, *Writing History* [Oxford University Press, paperback: 2013] ISBN: 978-0-190983004-6

### **ALL ASPECTS OF THE COURSE ARE REQUIRED:**

We reserve the right to give the grade of "F" to any student who fails to meet all the basic requirements of the course, regardless of their point total. In other words, you are expected to attend your assigned discussion section on a weekly basis. You are expected to attend lecture regularly. You are expected to complete all assignments on time. If you fail to meet ALL these basic expectations, you will receive an "F" for the course.

While exceptions to these basic requirements may (very occasionally) be granted, the student is obligated to request that such an exception be granted five days prior to the due date (for assignments). There will be no "incompletes" or extension beyond the end of the term. Please, no exceptions on this score.

### **Plagiarism:**

Unfortunately, it appears necessary to comment on plagiarism and cheating. Obviously, it is expected that all assignments will reflect your own original efforts. We do not discourage studying together; however, in the final analysis your essays and assignments must represent your ideas and be written in your own words. If there is ANY indication that students have collaborated in the **WRITING** of their essays, quizzes, exams or that the material has been cribbed from an undocumented source, zero (0) points will be assessed for the assignment.

A word of warning: the History Department subscribes to a service that can check essays for key words and phrases on the web, quickly locating the true source of the material. It's quite good. We've already caught a number of students who lifted their material from web sites. If I find that you have taken your essays (as a whole or in part) from a web site or a term paper service, I will fail you. It's that simple – you cheat or plagiarize, you get an F in the course.

If it is shown that your work in the course does not represent your own efforts, obviously the consequences will be serious. Cheating could cost you your college career, or, at the very least, it will mean an "F" in this course. But equally important, even if you are not caught I believe that cheating is a sign of a serious lack of respect for the people teaching the class, your fellow students, and yourself. Enough said. If you make a sincere effort to meet the demands of the course, we will make a sincere effort to help you pass the course. Cheating is quite unnecessary.

### **Parental Intervention:**

Recently I have had a problem with parents seeking to intercede on behalf of their "*children*" who are enrolled in the course. I am perfectly willing to discuss the content of the course with parents but I will not alter lectures or materials to fit the particular ideological, religious, political, ethnic or philosophical beliefs of the student or their family. This course is taught regularly by other faculty members. If my approach to American history is troubling to you, perhaps you should take

the course from a different instructor.

Of course, parents may contact the University or the Department in the most extreme cases of administrative prejudice or inappropriate behavior, but I will not under any circumstances entertain calls, letters or emails from parents (or their representatives) on matters of attendance; the conduct, timing or content of assignments or tests; or grading or scoring of examinations or assignments, or grades for the term as a whole. The same holds true for my Teaching Assistant. I fully back him in the conduct of the sections and his grading of assignments. I will intercede only in the case of some gross and persistent injustice. Federal and state law prevents us from providing anyone (including parents) personal or academic information about students enrolled in the class.

### **OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN:**

**Office Hours:** The Teaching Assistant for this course is Irina Tamarkina. Her email address is: [tamarkina@wisc.edu](mailto:tamarkina@wisc.edu) . She will announce his office hours when discussion sections meet for the first time and will also post them on her office door.

Professor Sharpless will hold office hours by appointment on Tuesday, 11:00 am - 12:00 [noon]. Other times can be arranged by phone or email. His office is 4110 Mosse Humanities Building. Phone: 263-1800 or 263-1816.

Professor Sharpless' e-mail address: [jsharppl@wisc.edu](mailto:jsharppl@wisc.edu)

**Email Communication:** From time to time, we will use the University email system to communicate with History 201 students. These can be very important messages aimed at the class as a whole or you as an individual. Please check your email regularly. [Always check the "FROM" line to make sure that the message is really from the History 201 Teaching Assistant, Professor Sharpless or the History Department. We are not responsible for fraudulent messages.]

The class "list serve" may only be used for matters directly related to the course. Absolutely no commercial, political or personal use of the "list serve" is allowed. This is a University rule and violations may be subject to harsh discipline.

We recommend that you use the "wisc.edu" address provided to every student by the University. Because of the various virus and junk mail filters, messages to and from "outside of system" email addresses occasionally do not make it through to the recipient or are seriously delayed. If you have any reason to believe that History 201 emails are not reaching you, talk to the TA.

**Laptops, Cell Phones, iPods & Other Electronic Devices:** Please remember to shut-off all cell phones and communication devices before discussions and lectures. If your cell phone beeps, rings or buzzes during lecture, I will ask you to leave. Do not listen to iPods or handheld communication devices during discussions or lectures. No headphones or "blue tooth" devices.

**NO LAPTOP COMPUTERS OR ELECTRONIC "PADS."** Given my recent experience with undergraduates disregarding my request that laptops only be used only for note-taking purposes, I'm afraid I have to bar all use of computers. There may be a few exceptions if they are part of the instructional processes in specific lectures. You will be told before hand, if that is the case. [Exceptions may be made for students with learning-disabilities as documented by the University.]

Do not record lectures or section discussions without permission. Lectures are under copyright to John Sharpless and the University of Wisconsin. Any re-transmission or publication without permission is a violation of copyright law. [I do not make the Power Point slides available. They are part of the lecture. If you come to lecture, you get to see the slides. If you don't come to lecture, you don't see the slides.]

**Discussion Section Changes:** We are under no obligation to make your course schedule “work.” If you have a conflict between your assigned History 201 section and another course, work schedule or some other obligation, it is essentially your problem. The Teaching Assistant will, under special circumstances, assist in locating you in another one of his sections - if it does not create an overload. All section changes must be completed by the University deadline. While shifting sections you must continue attendance in at least one of the TA's sections. We will not accept section changing as a reason for absence.