

History 490: Introduction to American Indian History
[Cross-listed as American Indian Studies 490]

Professor Ned Blackhawk

Office: History Department 5115, Box 5020

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30-11 am and by appointment

Phone: 263-2394

Email: ncblackhawk@wisc.edu

Course Description:

Ignored for generations, American Indian history has recently become one of the most exciting and prolific fields of historical inquiry. As scholars now recognize, Indian peoples have fundamentally shaped and defined our nation's past. From the founding of the first European settlements in North America to continuing debates over the meaning of American democracy, Indian history remains integral to understandings of American history and culture. This course introduces this complex and long ignored field of study.

Course Readings:

Six primary texts are required for this course. We will read these texts in conjunction with additional chapters, articles, and documents from a course reader available at the Humanities Copy Center. These additional readings are central to the class. The required and recommended texts and the reader are available also on reserve at College Library.

Books: (Available at Underground Textbook Exchange)

Required:

- Colin Calloway, ed., *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of American Indian History*, 2nd Ed.
- Matthew Dennis, *Cultivating a Landscape of Peace: Iroquois-European Encounters in Seventeenth-Century America*
- Cole Harris, *The Resettlement of British Columbia: Essays on Colonialism and Geographic Change*
- Frederick E. Hoxie, *Parading Through History: The Making of the Crow Nation in America, 1805-1935*
- Vine Deloria, Jr., *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*
- Sherman Alexie, *Ten Little Indians*

Course Requirements:

Students are responsible for all materials covered in lecture and in the readings. The final course grade will be determined as follows. Failure to complete any of the required assignments and examinations will constitute a failed grade.

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| 1) | Midterm Exam | (20%) |
| 2) | Section Participation and Attendance | (15%) |
| 3) | Short Paper (2-3 pages) | (15%) |

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| 4) | Comparative Book Review (5-7 pages) | (25%) |
| 5) | Final Exam | (25%) |

Exams:

Both exams will include short answer identifications (ID's) drawn from class lectures and readings as well as essay questions. The final exam will cover materials from mainly the second half of the course. Lists of exam study questions, one or two of which will appear on the actual exam, are in the course reader.

Short Paper:

A comprehension essay on Week 3's readings will be due on **September 22nd** in class. All papers should be double-spaced, typed, and handed in on time. No late papers will be accepted. Topic questions along with writing guidelines are in the course reader.

Comparative Book Review:

A comparative book review (5-7 pages) of Harris' *The Resettlement of British Columbia* and Hoxie's *Parading Through History* is due in class on **November 22nd** and will comprise a quarter of the class grade. Students will be given potential paper topics to focus their reviews. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, properly formatted and referenced, and handed in on time.

Weekly Discussion Sections and Attendance:

Attendance and active participation in weekly discussion sections are essential to the class and comprise (15%) of the final grade.

Credits and Additional Notes to Students:

This is an advanced undergraduate survey course in History; it is in fact the highest survey course in the Department. Students without any prior exposure to American history or American Indian Studies have often faced some initial challenges, though dedicated and engaged students from all disciplines have done well in the course. This is also a 4-credit course. Students enrolled through the American Indian Studies Program (AISP) can take the course for either 3 or 4 credits, though the course is designed for 4 credits of work, and no recalibrations of the course requirements will be made for AISP-enrolled students.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

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| September 6 | Course Goals and Purposes: What is Indian History? |
| September 8 | Native North American Before 1492: the Bering Strait vs. Native Oral Traditions |

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 1-62; Charles C. Mann, "1491"

Week 2

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| September 13 | The Columbian Encounter, Exchange, and Conquest |
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September 15 The First Global Empire: Spain in Mexico and North America

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 63-78, 96-108; Crosby, 165-207; Harris, xi-30

Week 3

September 20 New Worlds For All: American Indian Holocaust and Survival
September 22 The Iroquois Confederacy and the Making of “the Middle Ground”
(**Essay #1 Due in Class**)

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 78-86, 109-119; Dennis, 1-85; White, 1-49

Week 4

September 27 Indians & Englishmen: New England, Virginia, and the Southeast
September 29 Red, White, and Black: “Race” Relations in the English Colonies

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 86-95, 121-136; Taylor, 118-137, 188-203

Week 5

October 4 After 1701: Realignment and the Imperial “Playoff System”
October 6 The Imperial Wars of the 18th Century: Revolution and Crisis in
Indian Country

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 137-180; Wallace, 111-148

Week 6

October 11 **Midterm Exam**
October 13 Horses, Empires, Warfare: the Indian West Before Lewis & Clark

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 225-239; Ronda, 133-162; Harris, 31-67

Week 7

October 18 Indians and the Origins of the American Republic
October 20 From Allies to Exiles: the Formation of US Indian Policy

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 193-209; Meinig, 78-103; Hoxie, 1-30

Week 8

October 25 Indian Removal and the Marshall Trilogy: Crisis in Federalism,
Crisis in Community
October 27 Territorial Expansion and Native Resistance, to 1860

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 209-224; 240-258; Hoxie, 30-95

Week 9

November 1 The Indian West Before the Civil War
November 3 War, Peace, and Confinement: Treaties and Reservations

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 259-301; Harris, 68-102, 161-193; Hoxie, 96-125

Week 10

November 8 Institutions of US Colonialism: Education, Land, and Family
November 10 Resisting Assimilation: Cultural, Religious, and Political Change

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 335-396; Hoxie, 126-168, 226-265

Week 11

November 15 Indians and the Making of 20th-Century American Popular Culture
November 17 The Enduring Challenges of Impoverishment: the Traumatic and Personal Effects of Federal Indian Policy

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 327-334; Hoxie, 266-324

Week 12

November 22 The Indian New Deal and After: Indian Policy in Crisis & Reform
(**Book Review Due in Class**)
November 24 Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 397-403; Hoxie, 325-375

Week 13

November 29 The Roots and Rise of the American Indian Activism
December 1 The American Indian Renaissance in Literature, Art, & Education

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 403-425, 438-463; Laurie, 223-241; Deloria, vii-77

Week 14

December 6 Environmental and Legal Crises in Indian Country: 1970s and 80s
December 8 A Decade of Achievement: Native North America in the 1990s

Weekly Readings: Calloway, 464-509, 533-548; Bresette, 23-45, 248-251

Week 15

December 13 Facing the 21st Century: Contemporary Issues and Challenges
December 15 The Contested Nature of American Indian History and Identity

Weekly Readings: Deloria, 78-100; Alexie, 1-149