

History 5310: W01: Syllabus: Native American History Seminar

Fall 2015/Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross State University

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to provide a history of Native Americans in the United States. This course will cover Native American history from the pre-Columbian era, through the Colonial American (both Atlantic Coast and American Southwest), through the American Revolution, the Nineteenth and twentieth Centuries

Required Readings:

Axtell, James: *Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America*, Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN # 978-0195137712

Calloway, Colin: *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities*, Cambridge University Press, 1995, ISBN # 978-0521475693.

Iverson, Peter: *"We are Still Here": American Indians in the Twentieth Century*, Harlan Davidson Inc., ISBN# 978-0882959405.

Krech, Shepard: *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, Norton & Company, 1994. ISBN # 978-0393321005.

Mann, Charles C. *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, Vintage Books, 2006, ISBN # 978-1400032051

Weeks, Philip: *Farewell, My Nation; The American Indian and the United States in the Nineteenth Century*, Second Edition, 2001 Harlan Davidson Inc., ISBN # 978-0882-959566.

Course Requirements

This is a web based seminar. You will need to be self-directed and motivated to successfully complete this course. Your book reviews and assignments are due at specific dates and you need to get your assignments turned in on time. Fall is a busy time, especially for teachers and parents. We have high school football and athletics, new years, new semesters etc. You need to keep up with the readings and do not get behind. You will also need access to computers with regular internet links. Many people often say "well my computer was down" or the "internet is out for my house" when they fail to get their assignments in on time. You need to get these things in order before the semester begins.

You will be required to write weekly reviews and have those reviews turned in Monday mornings by 8:00 a.m. The schedule is described below. Each review should be from three to five pages, double spaced, 12 font, one inch margins. Also, you need to have a title page on each review that states your name and the review's book title and pages. You can turn the assignments in as an attachment to your Sul Ross email. Do not worry about Blackboard.

I will write comments and remarks on your reviews and mail them back to you, so please provide me with a current address. Also, maintain regular contact. Check your Sul Ross email regularly for any communication, and communicate with me through the Sul Ross email.

In addition to the reviews, you will also be required to write a 12 to fifteen page research paper on a topic pertaining to Native American History. The topic must be approved by me by November 2. The paper is due on December 10, 8:00 a.m. (although if you finish early by all means turn it in). The topic should consist of one of the following choices:

1. The Native-English colonial experience,
2. The Native-Spanish colonial experience,
3. The Native-French colonial experience,
4. A comparison between the three,
5. The Native American experience during the American Revolution,
6. The Native American during the War of 1812,
7. Indian Removal and the Trail of Tears,
8. Trans-Mississippian Expansion 1830-1860;
9. Native Americans and the Civil War, 1861-1865;
10. The Northern Plains Wars, 1866-1891, (The Sioux
11. The Southern Plains Wars, 1866-1891 (The Comanche
12. The Southwestern Wars, 1866-1891 (The Apache, Navajo)
13. The Native Americans of Texas
14. Native Americans and the Reservation System 1866-1934, (included in this would be the Dawes Act, to The Wheeler Act or Indian New Deal"
15. Native Americans and the Second World War
16. The Native American Civil Rights Movement 1945-1975
17. Native Americans in Contemporary America 1975-Present

The Schedule is as follows.

August 31-Course begins Charles C. Mann's *1491*, pages 1-150

September 7- Charles C. Mann's, *1491* pages 151-272

September 14-Charles C. Mann's *1491*, pages 273-378

September 21- Shepard Krech's *The Ecological Indian*

September 28- James Axtell's *Natives and Newcomers*, pages 1-142

October 5- James Axtell's *Natives and Newcomers*, pages 77-214

October 12- James Axtell's *Natives and Newcomers*, pages 215-336

October 19- Colin Calloway's *The American Revolution in Indian Country*, pages 1-107

October 26- Colin Calloway's *The American Revolution in Indian Country*, pages 108-212

November 2-Colin Calloway's *The American Revolution in Indian Country*, pages 213-301

November 9-Philip Week's *Farewell My Nation*, pages 1-122 (**Research paper topic choice due**)

November 16-Philip Week's *Farewell My Nation*, pages 123-249

November 23-Peter Iverson's *We Are Still Here* , pages 1-102

November 30- Peter Iverson's *We Are Still Here*, pages 103-210

December 10-Papers due (8:00 a.m.)

Things to Think About for Book Reviews.

1. 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus by Charles Mann

This book forces us to reevaluate the scope and magnitude of Native American civilizations and people throughout the western hemisphere before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. How? Why? Did this book change your perceptions of Native American peoples? Why or why not? What evidence does the author use? What role has archeology and anthropology played in the author's reconstruction of the Americas prior to 1491?

2. Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America by James Axtell

How does the author demonstrate the role of cultural interactions and first contacts played in shaping a distinct American identity and character during the earliest colonial times? How did communication and language shape this process? Why and how did religious conversion emerge as a cultural battleground and accommodation for this historical process? What about sexual mingling and the creation of a new American people?

3. The Ecological Indian: Myth and History by Shepard Krech

This book challenges many myths held by present day Americans; that of the Native American and Native American societies that lived in complete and total harmony with nature; never altering or impacting their environment. How does the author challenge these views? What evidence does he use? Does he convince you? Why or why not? Are we doing society, education, and schoolchildren, as well as popular media harm by overemphasizing the "ecological Indian" at the expense of a more balanced approach to history, and ultimately the humanity of Native Americans?

4. The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities by Colin Calloway

This book changed the way in which I looked at the American Revolution; from a more traditional view, to one that included the role and impact of the revolution on Native Americans. What crisis or crises were Native Americans facing by the middle of the eighteenth century? What options and choices did Native Americans face as the break between the colonists and Great Britain approached? What was the impact of the Revolution and its aftermath on Native American societies and people? The author concludes with Native Americans being left out of our national myth? What does he mean by this?

5. Farewell My Nation: The American Indian and the United States in the Nineteenth Century by Philip Weeks

This book covers the nineteenth-century genocide of the Native Americans. How did this historical catastrophe occur? Who were the major protagonists? How did Native Americans resist this genocide? Why do you think this aspect of American history is neglected and overlooked; especially as we teach children in the grade schools?

6. “We are Still Here”: American Indians in the Twentieth Century by Peter Iverson

I chose this book specifically because it dispels the notion that Native Americans are completely “disappeared”. What challenges and issues did Native Americans face during the course of the twentieth century? How did the First World War, the Great Depression, the Second World War, and the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960s impact Native Americans? How are Native Americans facing the challenges of reservation life, economic poverty, urbanization and the retention of identity, and other major issues?