

History 225-01

Fall 2016

Through Native Eyes: Native American History, 1491-1865

P. Albert Lacson

Office: Mears 201

Department of History

Phone: x3229

Grinnell College

E-mail: lacson@grinnell.edu

Course Times and Location: M, W, F 1:00-1:50 p.m., ARH 315

Office Hours: by appointment.

PURPOSE:

This course offers a social, environmental, political, and cultural history of early America from the perspectives of Native Americans. From the point of view of Native Americans, we will examine many familiar topics, like European exploration of North America, the founding of European colonies, warfare among European powers, the American Revolution, slavery, and the Civil War.

FORMAT:

During most of the semester, class meetings will focus on discussions of the assigned reading. For three weeks of the semester, we will play a game in which you take on the persona of an interpreter, American Indian, or British colonist in 1757 Pennsylvania to end a vicious and destructive war between the colony of Pennsylvania and the Delaware Indians. During the game, you will run the class sessions. I will merely resolve disputes and rule on special matters. The success of the course and your individual grade depends heavily on your class participation. It is essential that you attend every class prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

EVALUATION:

Short Assignments (25%)

Class Preparation Assignments (15%)

Forest Diplomacy (two Forest Diplomacy assignments and research paper on role) (20%)

Mid-Term Exam (10%)

Final Exam (10%)

Participation (attendance, pop quizzes, in-class group activities, engagement in class discussions) (20%)

- Tardy arrivals disrupt the class. Each class session is worth 100 points. After two “free tardies,” I will subtract 10 points for each subsequent late arrival.

You also get two “free absences.” After the third unexcused absence, you will lose the full 100 points per class session that you miss.

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the college bookstore. With the exception of Resendez's *The Other Slavery*, you can also find the books on 2-hour reserve at Burling Library. Once the library obtains a copy of *The Other Slavery*, it will also be on course reserve.

- (1) David Richter, *Facing East: From Indian Country*
- (2) Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire*
- (3) Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*
- (4) Andrés Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*

LATE POLICY ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

For one-page papers, your grade will be reduced by 1/3 for each day that it's late. For instance, if you earn a grade of B, but submit your paper one day late, your B will be entered as a B-. If that B paper is submitted two days late, your actual grade will be a C+, etc. "Day" = after 1 p.m. of the Friday due date and before 1 p.m. the following day will be considered 1 day late. Papers received after 1 p.m. the following day will be considered two days late, etc.

Class Preparation Assignments must be completed by the beginning of the class period. They are meant to facilitate our class discussions. It is pointless to submit this assignment after we've already had the class. Consequently, you will not receive credit for late Class Preparation Assignments. If you are ill or encounter some other kind of unplanned emergency, please let me know and I will discuss the situation with you to determine if I will allow you to receive credit for submitting the assignment late. If you are not able to print the assignment, but are able to send me the short assignment via email by 2:20 p.m. on the day it is due, you will not be assessed a penalty. This gives you approximately 15 minutes after class to find a computer and send the assignment to me. It would not be fair to others if I accepted the assignment any later.

Type and double-space EVERY written assignment.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Friday, Aug. 26
Conceptual framework of course

INDIANS? NATIVE AMERICANS?

Mon., Aug. 29

Reading:

1. Michael Yellow Bird, "What We Want to Be Called: Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Identity Labels," *American Indian Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (Spring, 1999), pp. 1-21. (JSTOR)

Class Prep Assignment #1: Why does the label that we assign to Native peoples matter? (No more than two double-spaced pages.) Answer this question after you have read and thought about the Michael Yellow Bird article.

REPRESENTATIONS IN HISTORY

Wed., Aug. 31

Reading:

- 1) Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (Documents)
- 2) Charles Mann, "A View from Above," fr. C. Mann, 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus (Documents)

NO CLASS FRIDAY (9/2)

HOW MANY PEOPLE?

Mon., Sept. 5

Reading:

- 1) John D. Daniels, "The Indian Population of North America in 1492," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (Apr., 1992), 298-320. (JSTOR)

FIRST MEETINGS

Wed., Sept. 7

Reading:

- 1) Josiah Jeremy, "The Floating Island" (1869) (Documents)
- 2) John Heckewelder, "The Arrival of the Dutch" (ca. 1765) (Documents)
- 3) Daniel K. Richter, Ch. 1, "Imagining a Distant World" in Facing East

Watch documentary: "First Contact." You can stream this documentary from our library website. Simply do a title search for "First Contact" in our electronic catalog and you will find the link.

THE ECOLOGICAL INDIAN

Fri., Sept. 9

Reading:

- 1) Shepard Krech III, "Buffalo" in Myth and History: The Ecological Indian (Documents)
- 2) Richard White, "Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?: Work and Nature" (Documents)

A MATERIAL NEW WORLD

Mon., Sept. 12

Reading:

- 1) Bruce G. Trigger, "Early Native North American Responses to European Contact: Romantic versus Rationalist Interpretations," The Journal of American History, Vol. 77, No. 4 (Mar., 1991), 1195-1215. (JSTOR).

Wed., Sept. 14

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 2, "Confronting a Material New World," in Facing East
- 2) Alfred Crosby, "Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America," William and Mary Quarterly, Third Series, Vol. 33, No. 2 (April 1976): 289-299. (JSTOR)

THE OTHER SLAVERY

Fri., Sept. 16

Reading: Andrés Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Mon., Sept. 19

Reading: Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*, Chapters 2-4

Wed., Sept. 21

Reading: Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*, Chapters 5-6

Fri., Sept. 23

No Class, but continue reading!

Reading:

Resendez, *The Other Slavery*, Ch. 7-8

Mon., Sept. 26

Reading: Resendez, *The Other Slavery*, Ch. 9-10

Wed., Sept. 28

Reading: Resendez, *The Other Slavery*, Ch. 11-12

Fri., Sept. 30

Reading: Resendez, *The Other Slavery*, Epilogue

Mon., Oct. 3

Guest: Andres Resendez

Required talk: Andres Resendez, "The Other Slavery," ARH 302, 7 p.m.

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Wed., Oct. 5

Reading:

1) D. Richter, Ch. 3, "Living with Europeans," in Facing East

2) Begin reading Richard White, "The Middle Ground" from R. White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (Documents)

Fri., Oct. 7

Reading:

- 1) Finish Richard White, "The Middle Ground"
- 2) Begin R. White, "The Fur Trade" (same pdf as "The Middle Ground" in Documents)

Weekend of Oct. 8-9

Place and time to be determined

Film: "Black Robe"

Mon., Oct. 10

Reading:

1. Finish R. White, "The Fur Trade"

WARFARE

Wed., Oct. 12

Reading:

- 1) Daniel K. Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser. 40 (1983), 528-59 (JSTOR)
- 2) "The Ordeal of Isaac Jogues" (Documents)
- 3) Optional: James Axtell, "The Unkindest Cut, or Who Invented Scalping?" in *The European and the Indian: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America* (Documents)

Fri., Oct. 14

MIDTERM EXAM (IN CLASS)

Fall Break (Oct. 15-23)

AN IMPERIAL WORLD

Mon., Oct. 24

Reading:

1) D. Richter, Ch. 4, “Native Voices in a Colonial World,” Facing East

Wed., Oct. 26

Reading:

1) D. Richter, Ch. 5, “Native Peoples in an Imperial World,” Facing East

Fri., Oct. 28

Prep for *Forest Diplomacy*

Mon., Oct. 31 – Fri., Nov. 4 Context for *Forest Diplomacy*

Nov. 7-Nov. 23, *Forest Diplomacy*

EXPANSION

Fri., Nov. 20

Reading:

1) Pekka Hamalainen, The Comanche Empire, Introduction and Chapter 1

Mon., Nov. 23

Reading:

1) Daniel Richter, Ch. 6 “Separate Creations,” Facing East

2) “An Account of the Paxton Boys' Murder of the Conestoga Indians,”
(<http://www.explorepahistory.com/odocument.php?docId=39>)

3) “An Anti-Quaker Defense of the Paxton Boys”
(<http://www.explorepahistory.com/odocument.php?docId=37>)

Wed., Nov. 25

Reading:

1) D. Richter, "Epilogue"

2) Colin Calloway, "'We Have Always Been the Frontier': The American Revolution in Shawnee Country," *American Indian Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Winter 1992), 39-52 (JSTOR)

EXPANSION

Mon., Nov. 30

Reading:

1. Pekka Hamalainen, The Comanche Empire, Introduction and Chapter 1
2. The West in Early America (Documents)

Wed., Dec. 2

Reading:

1) Hamalainen, Comanche Empire, Chapter 2

SLAVERY

Fri., Dec. 4

Reading:

1) Tiya Miles, The Ties That Bind, Introduction – Chapter 3

Mon., Dec. 7

Reading:

1) Tiya Miles, The Ties That Bind, Chapters 4-7

Wed., Dec. 9

Reading:

1) Tiya Miles, Ties That Bind, Chapters 8-Coda

GENOCIDE

Fri., Dec. 11

Reading:

1) Benjamin Madley, "California' Yuki Indians: Defining Genocide in Native American History," *Western Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Autumn 2008): 303-302. (JSTOR)

Thur., Dec. 15, 5 p.m.

Take-home FINAL EXAM DUE (via email attachment)