

Through Native Eyes: Native American History, 1491-1865

P. Albert Lacson
Department of History
Grinnell College
mail: lacson@grinnell.edu

Office: Mears 201
Phone: x3229
E-

Course Times and Location: M and W, 1:00-2:20 p.m., N2118
Office Hours: M,W, F 2:20-3:20 and 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:

Class meetings will focus on discussions of the assigned reading. 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:

Two 3-4 page papers, (15% each = 30%)

Research Paper (25%)

Final Exam (20%)

Participation (attendance, short assignments, pop quizzes, in-class group activities, engagement in class discussions) (25%)

- 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.

REQUIRED BOOKS

(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*

POLICIES ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

For Short Assignments, 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 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.

Participation Assignments assigned before class sessions 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. I will make exceptions if you are ill or encounter some other kind of unplanned emergency. We will discuss the situation with to determine if I will allow you to receive credit for submitting the assignment late.

Type and double-space EVERY written assignment.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Mon., Sept. 2
Conceptual framework of course
Questions

NAMING AND REPRESENTATIONS IN HISTORY

Wed., Sept. 4
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)

Class Preparation Assignment, due via Blackboard before class: According to Frederick Jackson Turner, what was the significance of the frontier in American history? (one paragraph, double-spaced)

FIRST ENCOUNTERS

Mon., Sept. 9
Reading:

1. Daniel K. Richter, Ch. 1, "Imagining a Distant World" in Facing East
2. 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

Wed., Sept. 11
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. 16

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. 18

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)

EMPIRE

Mon., Sept. 23

Reading:

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

Wed., Sept. 25

Reading:

1. Pekka Hamalainen, Introduction and Ch. 1, *Comanche Empire*

Mon., Sept. 30

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, Chapters 2 and 3, *Comanche Empire*

ANIMALS

Wed., Oct. 2

Reading:

1. Virginia DeJohn Anderson, "King Philip's Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d Ser. 51 (1994), 601-24. (JSTOR)

Mon., Oct. 7

1. Rebecca Kugel, "Of Missionaries and Their Cattle: Ojibwa Perceptions of a Missionary as Evil Shaman," *Ethnohistory* 37:1 (Winter 1990), 45-65. (JSTOR)
2. Richard White, "Introduction," *The Middle Ground* (Documents)

Tue., Oct. 7

Paper #1 due, 12 p.m., via Blackboard.

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Wed., Oct. 9

Reading:

1. Richard White, "The Middle Ground," *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Documents)

Mon., Oct. 14

Reading:

1. Richard White, "The Fur Trade," White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Documents)

WARFARE

Film: "Black Robe"

Wed., Oct. 16

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. Watch "Black Robe"
4. 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)

Film viewing: watch the motion picture "Black Robe" by class on Friday, October 12. I have been able to view the film in its entirety on YouTube, but just in case it is no longer on YouTube, I will place it on reserve at Burling Library. If there is interest, I can also have a public showing.

Paper #2 due, anytime between Mon., Oct. 14 and Fri., Oct. 18 (before midnight).

FALL BREAK!! (OCT. 21-25)

AN IMPERIAL WORLD

Mon., Oct. 28

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 4, "Native Voices in a Colonial World," *Facing East*

Wed., Oct. 30

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, Ch. 5, "Native Peoples in an Imperial World," *Facing East*

EXPANSION

Mon., Nov. 4

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. 6

Reading:

- 1) D. Richter, "Epilogue," *Facing East*
- 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)

Mon., Nov. 11

Reading:

1. Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire*, Chapter 4

Wed., Nov. 13

Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, *Comanche Empire*, Chapter 5

SLAVERY

Mon., Nov. 18

Reading:

1. Andrés Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*, Intro-Ch. 2

Wed., Nov. 20

Reading:

1. Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*

Mon., Nov. 25

Reading:

1. Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*

Wed., Nov. 27

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Mon., Dec. 2

Reading:

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

Wed., Dec. 4

Reading:

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

Mon., Dec. 9

Reading:

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

GENOCIDE

Wed., 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. 19, 5 p.m.
Take-home FINAL EXAM DUE (via email attachment)