

Through Native Eyes: Native American History

P. Albert Lacson
Department of History
Grinnell College

Virtual Office: <https://grinnellcollege.webex.com/meet/lacson>

Phone: 641-854-0701

E-mail: lacson@grinnell.edu

I am here to help you!!! If ANYTHING arises that presents a challenge to you, please contact me. I want to help you! If you email me, I will be sure to respond to your email within 24 hours. If you need more immediate assistance with the course, feel free to call me ANYTIME between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (CST) between Monday and Friday, during F1. If I am not able to answer, leave a message and I will return your call ASAP.

ALL TIMES ON THE SYLLABUS ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

PURPOSE

This course offers a social, environmental, political, and cultural history of early America from the perspectives of Native Americans. It seeks to illuminate for students an unfamiliar North American continent. During the period of colonization, Indigenous peoples were the demographic majority. They possessed the kind of military, political, and economic strength that can only be understood by leaving behind twenty-first century assumptions about the place of Native peoples in North America.

FORMAT

Video previews of the upcoming week every weekend except the first week.

Mondays from 1-2 p.m. (CST): Question and Answer Session

Thursdays 1-2 p.m., Live Section #1; 2-3 p.m., Live Section #2

Fridays 1-2 p.m., Live Section #3

GRADES

30% Weekly 50 Word Assignments

20 % Class Prep Assignments

10% Class Participation

20% Movie Review of “Black Robe”

20% Final Exam (asynchronous)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION (Oct. 30)

No reading.

A BORDERED LAND (Nov. 2-6)

Reading:

- 1) Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"
- 2) Julianna Barr, "Geographies of Power: Mapping Indian Borders in the 'Borderlands' of the Early Southwest," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (January 2011), 5-46.

FIRST ENCOUNTERS (Nov. 9-13)

Reading:

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

MICROBES AND MATERIAL CULTURE (Nov. 16-20)

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 MIDDLE GROUND (Nov. 23-27)

Reading:

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

WARFARE (Nov. 30 – Dec. 4)

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” before your live class session. 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 see if the library can provide a link for another online version.

TREATIES (Dec. 7-11)

Reading:

- 1) James Merrell, *The Lancaster Treaty of 1744*, Introduction
- 2) Text of the Lancaster Treaty in Merrell

REVOLUTIONS (Dec. 14-18)

Reading:

- 1) Colin G. Calloway, *The Indian World of George Washington*