

Through Native Eyes: Native American History, 1491-1865

P. Albert Lacson
Department of History
Grinnell College

Office: HSSC, N3166
Phone #s: x3229; 641-854-0701
E-mail: lacson@grinnell.edu

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

Course Times and Location: M and W, 1:00-2:20 p.m., HSSC N2118
Office Hours: by appointment

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 the semester. If I am not able to answer, leave a message and I will return your call ASAP.

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.

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 to determine if I will allow you to receive credit for submitting the assignment late.

Type and double-space EVERY written assignment.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- (1) David Richter, *Facing East: From Indian Country*
- (2) Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*
- (3) Claudio Saunt, *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Mon., Aug. 30
Conceptual framework of course
Questions

REPRESENTATIONS IN HISTORY

Wed., Sept. 1
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

Fri., Sept. 3
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

Mon., Sept. 6
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

Wed., Sept. 8

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)

Fri., Sept. 10

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. 13

Reading:

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

Tue., Sept. 14: 3-4 page paper due via Pweb by 11:59 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 15

Reading:

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

Fri., Sept. 17

Reading:

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

ANIMALS

Mon., Sept. 20

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)

Wed. Sept. 22

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

Fri., Sept. 24

Reading:

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

Mon., Sept. 27

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., Sept. 29

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.

AN IMPERIAL WORLD

Fri., Oct. 1

Reading:

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

Mon., Oct. 4

Reading:

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

Tue., Oct. 5: 3-4 page paper due via Pweb by 11:59 p.m.

EXPANSION

Wed., Oct. 6

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>)

Fri., Oct. 8

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., Oct. 11

Reading:

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

Wed., Oct. 13

Reading:

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

SLAVERY

Fri., Oct. 15

Reading:

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

Fall Break: Oct. 16-Oct. 24

Mon., Oct. 25

Reading:

1. Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*

Wed., Oct. 27

Reading:

1. Reséndez, *The Other Slavery*

Fri., Oct. 29

Reading:

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

Mon., Nov. 1

Reading:

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

Wed., Nov. 3

Reading:

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

REMOVAL

Fri., Nov. 5

Reading: Claudio Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Introduction

Mon., Nov. 8

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Chapters 1 and 2

Wed., Nov. 10

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 3

Fri., Nov. 12

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 4

Mon., Nov. 15

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 5

Wed., Nov. 17

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 6

Fri., Nov. 19

Reading, Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 7

Mon., Nov. 22

Reading Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 8

THANKSGIVING BREAK: Wed., Nov. 24-28

Mon., Nov. 29

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 9 and 10

Wed., Dec. 1

Reading: Saunt, *Unworthy Republic*, Ch. 11 and Afterword

GENOCIDE:

Fri., Dec. 3

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)

Mon., Dec. 6

Research Paper

Wed., Dec. 8

Research Paper

Fri., Dec. 10: Research Paper due via Pweb by 11:59 p.m.

Thur., Dec. 19, 5 p.m.

Take-home FINAL EXAM DUE (via Pweb)