

AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS

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Course Times and Location: TTh, 2-3:50 p.m., JRC 202
Office Hours: MWF, 8-10 a.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the history of American Indian reservations from the late-nineteenth century to the present. The common readings will introduce students to recent scholarship that examines the history of Native peoples and their struggles to live as nations within the boundaries of another nation. We will pay special attention to the changing relationship between American Indians, their reservations, and the United States federal government. By the end of the semester, students will have produced a research paper based on a combination of primary and secondary sources (20-25 pages).

Format

Prior to spring break, the class will meet twice a week for us to discuss a common set of sources. We will also work on assignments meant to illuminate as explicitly as possible the research skills necessary to produce a high quality research paper in the field of history. Your goal prior to spring break should be to develop your topic as precisely as possible. The success of the seminar meetings depends heavily on your engagement with the material and with each other. After break, we will not meet as a full seminar until the end of the semester when you present your research papers to the class. Instead, we will meet in small research groups to provide you with an opportunity to report on your research and writing as you progress through the semester.

Required Books

David Treuer, *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life*
Frederick E. Hoxie, *A Final Promise: A Campaign to Assimilate Indians, 1880-1920*
Vine Deloria, Jr. and Clifford M. Lytle, *American Indians, American Justice*

Important note on reading: In addition to the reading listed on the syllabus for reach class session, I will be identifying relevant primary sources for us to analyze. Your will receive these with ample time to complete both the secondary source reading and to read and analyze the primary sources.

Semester Schedule

Tuesday, January 23

Introductions

Student interests

Narratives from fragmentary evidence

Starting points for primary sources:

American Indian Histories and Cultures (Burling Library database)

Documents Relating to Indian Affairs (Digital Library, University of Wisconsin):

<https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/History/IndianTreatiesMicro/>

Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center: <http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>

Digital Collections (Beinecke Library, Yale University): <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Native American Studies Research Guide (Michigan State University):

<http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/c.php?g=95603&p=624342>

Native American Documents Project (California State University San Marcos):

<http://public.csusm.edu/nadp/>

Edward E. Ayer Digital Collection (Newberry Library):

http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/nby_eeayer

Google search: x topic primary sources site:.edu

Thursday, January 25:

Reading:

- 1) David Treuer, *Rez Life*, Ch. 1

Organizing sources and notes in the 21st century: Evernote and Zotero

Tuesday, January 30:

Reading:

- 1) Treuer, *Rez Life*, Chapters 2-5

Thursday, February 1

Reading:

- 1) Treuer, *Rez Life*, finish book

DUE at the beginning of class: Based on *Rez Life*, identify three potential topics for your research paper. Submit one paragraph per potential topic explaining what you find compelling about the each topic. You will submit a total of three paragraphs.

Tuesday, February 6:

Reading:

- 1) Frederick Hoxie, *A Final Promise*, Preface to Bison Books Edition – Ch. 3

Thursday, February 8:

Reading:

- 1) Hoxie, *A Final Promise*, Ch. 4 and 5

DUE at the beginning of class: Based mainly on all the course material and any outside research, submit an explanation of two potential topics (one paragraph per topic). If you are still interested in the same topics as you submitted for first assignment, then you simply need to elaborate on how the reading we have done has convinced you that you should continue exploring these topics. If you have a new topic, simply explain your interest in the new topic.

Tuesday, February 13

Reading:

- 1) Hoxie, *A Final Promise*, finish book

Thursday, February 15:

Reading:

- 1) Vine Deloria, Jr. and Clifford M. Lytle, *American Indians, American Justice*, Introduction - Ch. 3

DUE at the beginning of class: Based mainly on all the course material and any outside research, submit an explanation of two potential topics (one paragraph per topic). If you are still interested in the same topics as you submitted for first assignment, then you simply need to elaborate on how the reading we have done has convinced you that you should continue exploring these topics. If you have a new topic, simply explain your interest in the new topic.

Tuesday, February 20:

Reading:

- 1) Deloria and Lytle, *American Indians, American Justice*, Ch. 4 – Ch. 7

Thursday, February 22

Reading:

- 1) Deloria and Lytle, *American Indians, and American Justice*, Ch. 8 – Ch. 9

Tuesday, February 27

March 16 – April 1: SPRING BREAK

April 3-April 26: Small group meetings

Tuesday, May 1

Research Presentations

Thursday, May 3

Research Presentations

Tuesday, May 8

Research Presentations

Thursday, May 10

Research Presentations

Friday, May 18: FINAL PAPER, due by 5 p.m. ABSOLUTELY NO

EXCEPTIONS. Grinnell College policy does not allow instructors to accept work after 5 p.m. on this day.