

AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS

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Course Times and Location: TTh, 2-3:50 p.m., Mears 217
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the history of American Indians with a focus on 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*
N. Bruce Duthu, *American Indians and the Law*

Important note on reading: In addition to the reading listed on the syllabus for each class session, I will be identifying relevant primary sources for us to analyze, often during our class sessions. You will receive these with ample time to complete both the secondary source reading and the primary sources.

Semester Schedule

Tuesday, January 22

Introductions: student interests and experience in independent projects

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

UCLA American Indian Studies Research Guide:
<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/c.php?g=180444&p=1187361>

University of Arkansas, Little Rock Research Guide:
<https://ualr.edu/sequoyah/our-collections/>

University of Washington Library, Guide to Government Sources:
<http://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=341739&p=2304215>

Google search: x topic primary sources site:.edu

Also: Native American research guide site:.edu

Thursday, January 24:

Reading:

1. National Congress of American Indians, "Tribal Nations and the United States: An Introduction": http://www.ncai.org/tribalnations/introduction/Tribal_Nations_and_the_United_States_An_Introduction-web-.pdf
2. William Cronon's Learning Historical Research website:
 - a. Introduction: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/>
 - b. Asking Good Questions: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/questions.htm>

Tuesday, January 29:

Reading:

3. Joseph P. Kalt and Joseph William Singer, "Myths and Realities of Tribal Sovereignty: The Law and Economics of Indian Self-Rule" (PDF)
4. Packet of recent struggles (PDF called "Recent Struggles")
5. Cronon, Learning Historical Research, Taking Notes: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/notetaking.htm>

Thursday, January 31

DIFFERENT LOCATION: WE WILL MEET IN BURLING

Reading:

6. David Treuer, *Rez Life*, pp. 1-58.
7. Cronon, Learning Historical Research, Finding Documents: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/documents.htm>

Tuesday, February 5:

Reading:

8. Treuer, *Rez Life*, pp. 61-210
9. Cronon, Learning Historical Research, Arguing and Telling Stories: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/arguing.htm>

Wednesday, February 6

DUE: Three interesting documents. Submit one paragraph per document explaining the issue or question that the document allows you to explore. Submit a total of three paragraphs.

Thursday, February 7

Reading:

10. Treuer, *Rez Life*, 213-322
11. Cronon, Learning Historical Research, Positioning Yourself Relative to Others: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/positioning.htm>

Tuesday, February 12

Reading:

12. Frederick Hoxie, *A Final Promise*, Both Prefaces – Ch. 5

Thursday, February 14:

Reading:

13. Hoxie, *A Final Promise*, Ch. 6-8

Tuesday, February 19:

Reading:

- 1) Peter Iverson, *"We Are Still Here": American Indians in the Twentieth Century*, Ch. 2 and 3
- 2) Primary Documents (tba)

Thursday, February 21

Reading:

14. Iverson, *"We Are Still Here,"* Ch. 4
15. Primary Documents (tba)

Tuesday, February 26

Reading:

16. Iverson, *"We Are Still Here,"* Ch. 5 and 6
17. Primary Documents (tba)

Thursday, February 28

Reading:

18. N. Bruce Duthu, *American Indians and the Law*, Preface and Acknowledgments, Introduction, and Part One (Chapters 1-3)

Tuesday, March 5

Reading:

19. Duthu, *American Indians and the Law*, Part Two (Chapters 4-6)

Thursday, March 7

Reading:

20. Duthu, *American Indians and the Law*, Part Three (Chapters 7 and 8)

Tuesday, March 12

Reading:

21. Duthu, *American Indians and the Law*, Part Four (Chapters 9, 10, and Conclusion)

Thursday, March 14

Reading:

22. Cronon, *Learning Historical Research, Drafting, Editing, and Revising*: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/writing.htm>

March 18 – March 29: SPRING BREAK

April 2-April 25: Small group meetings

Tuesday, April 30
Research Presentations

Thursday, May 2
Research Presentations

Tuesday, May 7
Research Presentations

Thursday, May 9
Research Presentations

Friday, May 17: 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.