

AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS

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Course Times and Location: TTh, 2-3:50 p.m., JRC 203
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 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*
Elliott West, *The Last Indian War*
Louis Warren, *God's Red Son: The Ghost Dance Religion and the Making of Modern America*

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.

Tue., Jan. 21
Introduction

Thur., Jan. 23
Reading:

- 1) Elliott West, *The Last Indian War*, Editors note, Preface, Chapters 1-4
- 2) How to Frame a Researchable Question: <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/questions.htm>

Tue., Jan. 28

- 1) West, *The Last Indian War*, Chapters 5-9
- 2) What Are the Documents? <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/documents.htm>

Thur., Jan. 30

- 1) West, *The Last Indian War*, Chapters 10-12
- 2) Searching for the Sources and Information <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/searching.htm>

Tue., Feb. 4

- 1) West, *The Last Indian War*, Chapters 13-17
- 2) Taking Notes. <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/notetaking.htm>

Thur., Feb. 6

- 1) West, *The Last Indian War*, Chapter 18, Epilogue, Acknowledgments, and Note on Sources
- 2) Arguments and Narrative <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/arguing.htm>

Tue., Feb. 11

- 1) Louis S. Warren, *God's Red Son: The Ghost Dance Religion and the Making of Modern America*, Author's Note on Terminology, Introduction, Chapter 1-3
- 2) Positioning Yourself Relative to Others <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/positioning.htm>

Thur., Feb. 13, NO CLASS

Tue., Feb. 18

- 1) Warren, *God's Red Son*, Chapters 4-11
- 2) Drafting, Editing, Revising <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/writing.htm>

Thur., Feb. 20

- 1) Warren, *God's Red Son*, Chapters 12-13

Tue., Feb. 25

- 1) Warren, *God's Red Son*, Chapters 14, Epilogue, and Acknowledgments
- 2) David Treuer, *Rez Life*,

Thur., Feb. 27

- 1) Treuer, *Rez Life*

Tue., Mar. 3

- 1) Treuer, *Rez Life*

Thur., Mar. 5

- 1) Treuer, *Rez Life*

Tue., Mar. 10

Three student articles/papers/book chapters

Thur., Mar. 12

Two student articles/papers/book chapters

Spring Break, Mar. 16-27

Small Group meetings Tue Mar. 31 - Thur. Apr. 30.

Tue., May 5
Research Presentations

Thur., May 7
Research Presentations

THUR., MAY 14, FINAL PAPER DUE BY MIDNIGHT