

HIST 6620 Graduate Seminar in Native American Studies
Fall 2007/ Monday 4:30-7:00 pm
Old Main 323L

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Office Hours: Wed. 3:00 – 4:00 pm and by appointment

Course Description

In this course we will read and discuss some of the major works in Native American Studies, examining questions that have shaped the field over the last generation including, but not necessarily limited to: colonialism, culture, and political economy. Native American scholarship is probably one of the most politically charged areas of academic inquiry. Doing research on indigenous “topics” raises difficult issues about the relationship between the scholar and the subject. So, in addition to reading classic historical and anthropological studies, we will also address methodological, theoretical and ethical questions that these works inevitably inspire. Since this is a reading seminar, please be prepared to take an active role in creating a stimulating and thoughtful learning environment. We will be learning from each other and everyone will be counting on you to contribute your ideas, questions, confusions and insights. It is your responsibility to participate in creating a dynamic and respectful intellectual climate by coming to class on time, prepared, and ready to discuss the assigned readings. You will find the books required for this course available at the bookstore. (You might be able to find cheaper used copies elsewhere). These books are also available on reserve in the library. Additional articles are available on line.

Required Books:

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies* (Zed books 1999).

Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places Landscape and Language among the Western Apache* (University of New Mexico Press, 1996).

Jeffrey Ostler, *The Plains Sioux and US Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Kenneth R. Philp, *Indian Self Rule: First Hand Accounts of Indian-White Relations from Roosevelt to Reagan* (Utah State University Press, 1995).

Clyde Ellis, *A Dancing People: Powwow Culture on the Southern Plains* (University Press of Kansas, 2006).

Paige Raibmon, *Authentic Indians: Episodes of Encounter from the Late-Nineteenth-Century Northwest Coast* (Duke University Press, 2005).

Susan Sleeper-Smith, *Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2001)

David Rich Lewis, *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: American Indians, Environment and Agrarian Change* (Oxford University Press, 1997).

Frederick Hoxie, *Parading through History: The Making of the Crow Nation* (Cambridge, 2005).

Robert F. Berkhofer, *The White Man's Indian: Images of the American Indian from Columbus to the Present* (Vintage, 1979)

Jane E. Simonsen, *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the Native American West, 1860- 1919* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

Assignments and Grading:

1. Leading Discussion. (20%) Each of you will be responsible for facilitating class discussion at least once (depending on enrollment) during the course of the semester. That responsibility will involve:
 - Emailing the class a list of discussion questions (between 5-10) before the class meeting, but no later than Sunday night. Placing the book/chapter/article in its historiographical context
 - Guiding your classmates through the reading, making sure we draw out the authors' major points.
 - Assessing the book's contribution to the literature, as well as its limitations.
 - Connecting the author's ideas to others works.
 - Encouraging class participation.
2. Critical book review. (20%) (one paper, 5-7 pages, due the week after you lead class discussion)
3. A historiographical essay. (30%) (15-17 pages) on a topic of your choice – as related to one of the subjects covered during the course of the semester. You may choose one of the books and read other works (books and articles) on that topic to develop a deeper understanding of that topic area.
4. Class presentation of your historiographical conclusions. (15%) Make sure that you come prepared to share your insights about your topic with the class. This is a formal presentation, so make sure your thoughts are well organized and that you can sum up your findings in the time allotted.
5. Intellectual Journal. (15%) You will be required to keep a journal that will serve as a record of your thoughts and insights inspired by the readings throughout the semester. You will need an entry on each reading, preferably one that states the author's major arguments, the book's major contributions and your criticisms. You might also include ideas that the book inspires in your own mind, on a broader or more personal scale. Each entry should be no longer than 500 words. The journal will be due on October 10th and December 5th.

Reading and Discussion Schedule:

August 27: Introductions, course goals, discussion assignments

September 3: No Class, Labor Day holiday!

September 10: Methodology and Historiography

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies*.

Phil Deloria, "Historiography," in a *Companion to American Indian History* (Blackwell 2004) (pdf on history dept. website)

September 17: Methodology Continued

Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*

September 24: US Indian Policy

Robert F. Berkhofer, *The White Man's Indian: Images of the American Indian from Columbus to the Present*

October 1: Indian Policy continued

Jeffrey Ostler, *The Plains Sioux and US Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee*

October 8: Gender and Colonialism

Susan Sleeper-Smith, *Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2001) ISBN 978-1-55849-308-7.

October 15: Gender and Colonialism continued

Jane E. Simonsen, *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the Native American West, 1860- 1919.*

Intellectual Journals DueOctober 22: Culture and Economy

Clyde Ellis, *A Dancing People: Powwow Culture on the Southern Plains.*

Pat Albers, "Labor and Exchange in American Indian History," in Philip Deloria and Neal Salisbury, *A Companion to American Indian History*, 269-286 (pdf on History Department Website).

October 29: Culture and Economy

Paige Raibmon, *Authentic Indians: Episodes of Encounter from the Late-Nineteenth-Century Northwest Coast.*

November 5: Culture and Environment

David Rich Lewis, *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: American Indians, Environment and Agrarian Change.*

November 12: Tribal histories

Frederick Hoxie, *Parading through History: The Making of the Crow Nation.*

November 19: Sovereignty and Rebuilding

Kenneth R. Philp, *Indian Self Rule: First Hand Accounts of Indian-White Relations from Roosevelt to Reagan,*

Intellectual Journal DueNovember 26: Historiographical Presentations**Historiographical Papers Due**December 3: Historiographical Presentations, continued.