“THESE PEOPLE FROM THE UNKNOWN WORLD”:
NATIVE AMERICA AND AMERICAN HISTORY

Course Description
This course provides an in-depth look at selected Native American cultures, inter-tribal relations, and relations with EuroAmericans in North America. The evolution of United States Indian policy, as well as key shifts in Native American strategies for survival form the chronological framework for the course. Recent scholarship will shed light on the issues of tribal sovereignty, conquest, and cultural brokerage. Through Native American oral histories, written memoirs, and fiction, we will explore the concepts of syncretism, cultural persistence, and bicultural identity.

Course Structure
Class time will blend lecture and discussion. Lectures will provide information that is not covered by the reading. However, most of our time will be spent in discussion of the assigned readings. Periodically, class time will also include student presentations and hands-on workshops.

When reading, jot down notes. You will create a valuable record of ideas, evidence, and questions which you can draw from during discussion. On days marked "Discussion," consider it a standing assignment to come prepared; that is, having done the reading listed for that day. Good discussion depends upon your preparation.

Think of history as an interpretive art. The story will change, depending upon what questions we ask, and what evidence we call forth. Our job will be to weigh differing arguments; to determine why they do or do not convince us; and to arrive at our own conclusions.

Required Texts
Michael Green & Theda Purdue, The Cherokee Removal; A Brief History with Documents (St. Martin's Press, 1995).


Peggy Albright, Crow Indian Photographer: The Work of Richard Throssel (University of New Mexico Press, 1997).


Course Packet Available at the History department Office. Includes recent scholarship in Native American History.
Course Requirements

1) Consistent attendance and participation. Class participation counts substantially in your grade. Over two absences will lower your average by one grade.

2) Completion of assigned work, on time. Late papers will be averaged a grade lower than their content. The same holds for exams missed without a verifiable medical reason.

3) All work, unless otherwise indicated, is assumed to be pledged under the Honor Code.
Written Assignments
1) A 7-8 page take-home essay exam on early contact between Native American and European cultures, addressing questions of adaptation, cultural brokerage, and conquest.

2) A 7-8 page take-home essay exam on the Cherokee Nation, addressing questions of sovereignty, assimilation, and syncretism.

3) A 5-6 page interpretive essay on the novel, Fools Crow or The Surrounded.

4) An in-class final exam, consisting of two essays, one addressing tribalism within industrial capitalist society; and one addressing contemporary issues in reservation life.

COURSE OUTLINE

Th Jan 14   Introduction to the Course
            Workshop on Cross-Cultural Perceptions

T Jan 19   Discussion
            Cosmologies and Stereotypes: Indian and European

            Reading: James Wilson, “This is How It Was: Two Views of
            and Perpetuation,” pp.3-22.

            Rayna Green, “The Pochahontas Perplex: The Image of

Th Jan 21   Slide Lecture
            Native America in Art and Literature: Images From the
            Euro-American Imagination

T Jan 26   Student Presentations
            Discussion of Ethnographies

Th Jan 28   Discussion
            Spiritual Dimensions of Early Contact

            Reading: Kenneth Morrison, "Montagnais Missionization in
            Father Paul LeJeune, "Encounter with the Indians,"
            James Ronda, “‘We Are Well As We Are’: An Indian
Feb 2 Lecture/Discussion
Algonquians and English Immigrants: Gender, Diplomacy, and Conquest

Reading: Kathleen Brown, "The Anglo-Algonquian Gender
Hugh Henry Brackenridge, "The Indians Have No

Th Feb 4 Discussion
Social and Political Adaptations to Early Contact

Karen Anderson, "Commodity Exchange and

T Feb 9 Lecture/Discussion
The Northern Fur Trade

Sylvia Van Kirk, "The Role of Native American
"Edmond Atkin Reveals the Reasons for French Saukamappee, “Memories of War and Smallpox” (1788), pp.43-7.

Th Feb 11 Lecture
The Seneca Nation and the American Revolution

Anthony Wallace, "The Importance of Love and

**FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT**
T Feb 16 Lecture/Discussion
The Covenant Chain and the American Revolution


"Ordinance for the Regulation and Management of Northwest Ordinance" (1787), pp.168-69.


Th Feb 18 Discussion
Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Economics on the Early

Reading: Daniel Usner, "American Indians on the Cotton

**FIRST ESSAY DUE**

T Feb 23 Lecture
Emergence of United States Removal Policy: The Case of the

Reading: Theda Purdue & Michael Green, The Cherokee

Th Feb 25 Discussion
The Paradoxes of a 'Civilized Tribe'

Reading: Theda Purdue, "Women, Men, and American

William McLoughlin, "An Alternative Missionary

T March 2 Discussion
Tribal Factionalism and Congressional Debate


**2ND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT**

Th March 4 Discussion
Plains Ecology and Plains Diplomacy

Reading: Richard White, "The Winning of the West: The
Dan Flores, "Bison Ecology and Bison Diplomacy: The
Colin Calloway, “The Intertribal Balance of Power on
Lone Dog’s Winter Count (1800-1871), pp.31-35.

March 6-14 SPRING BREAK: Begin reading Fools Crow.

T March 16 Workshop
The Uses of Metaphor in Diplomacy

Reading: Raymond DeMallie, "Touching the Pen: Plains
Treaty of Fort Laramie (1851), pp.238-41.

**SECOND ESSAY DUE**

Th March 18 Lecture
Grant’s Peace Policy, Plains Warfare, and Assimilation Dreams:

Reading: “Account of Sand Creek,” pp.102-03.


Bear Head, “Account of the Massacre on the Marias” (1870), pp.105-110.

**This weekend, finish reading Fools Crow.**
T  March 23  Discussion
   The Blackfeet on the Nineteenth-Century Northern Plains
   Reading: James Welch, *Fools Crow*.

Th March 25  Discussion
   Cross-Gender Identities

T  March 30  Discussion
   Reservation Life in the Early Twentieth Century
   Reading: Peter Iverson, "When Indians Became Cowboys,"
   Jill Martin, “Neither Fish, Flesh, Fowl, nor Good Red

April 1-4  **EASTER BREAK: Begin Albright, Crow Photographer.**

T  April 6  Discussion
   Cultural Mediation and Tribal Survival: A Crow Photographer’s Story
   Reading: Peggy Albright, *Crow Indian Photographer: The

Th April 8  **Lecture/Discussion**
   The Indian New Deal
T April 13 Discussion
Cultural Loss & Cultural Persistence Among the Salish-Kootenai
Reading: Darcy McKnickle, *The Surrounded*.

Th April 15 Discussion
Termination, Alcatraz, and the American Indian Movement
Reading: Donald Fixico, "The Relocation and Urbanization
Judith Antell, "The Occupation of Alcatraz Island,
"A Proclamation for Indians of All Tribes, Alcatraz
"Ada Deer [Menominee] Explains How Her People

T April 20 Discussion
Cultural Revitalization in Contemporary America
Reading: William Farr, "Troubled Bundles, Troubled

Th April 22 Discussion
Contemporary Syncretism and Tribal Politics
Reading: Fergus Bordewich, "A Scene Most Resembling
Bordewich, "Our Lives Have Been Transmuted,

T April 27 Discussion
Contemporary Mixed-Blood Identity and Culture
Film: “Medicine Fiddle”

Th April 29 Discussion
Synthesis and Reflection

**STUDY QUESTIONS FOR EXAM HANDED OUT**

Sat May 8 Final Essay Exam: 1-3:30pm
Bring Two Blue Books to Class.