

HIST 397

*First
People
of North
America*

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Thomas Hart Benton, *The American Historical Epic*, Palisades, 1919.

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Moravian College

Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00–2:30; Thursday 2:00–3:30

Welcome to First Peoples of North America. This course is an intensive reading and writing course that will culminate with you writing a 20-page, primary research paper. The study of First Peoples presents historians with special challenges. How can historians trained in the use of documents write the history of oral peoples? Can non-Aboriginal scholars write Native history? If so, how do we bridge the cultural distance between western society and Native cultures? In order to help you to begin answer these questions, the first part of the course will introduce you to the disciplines and methodologies scholars employ to study the history and culture of First People. You will become familiar with oral history, autohistory, anthropology, archeology, and the methodology of ethnohistory. Since North America was home to approximately 2,000 distinct cultures at contact, the course will treat major themes in the history of Native North America rather than individual cultures. You will have an opportunity to study the people and topics that interest you most in the final paper.

Goals of the Course

In this course students will learn to:

- appreciate the complexities and challenges of writing the history of Native people.
- employ a multidisciplinary approach to writing history.
- approach writing as a process.
- integrate primary and secondary sources
- employ the conventions appropriate to the discipline of history
- learn to give and receive constructive criticism.

Required Texts

You may purchase the following required texts from the bookstore. You will find other course readings on Blackboard.

Georges Sioui, *For an Amerindian Autohistory: An Essay on the Foundations of a Social Ethic* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1992).

Ila Bussidor and Ustun Bilgen-Reinart, *Night Spirits: The Story of the Relocation of the Sayisi Dene* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1997).

Taiiaiake Alfred, *Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto* (Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Attendance

The seminar provides a forum to discuss ideas and issues arising from the week's reading. Seminars work only when everyone contributes. Therefore, you should attend all classes and be prepared to discuss the readings. Students who miss two seminars without a doctor's note will have a third of a grade deducted from their final mark. So a student with a B+ average who misses three classes will receive a B.

As a courtesy, please turn off or mute all electronic devices in the classroom.

Grade Distribution

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table of secondary and primary sources | 5% |
| Writing throughout the semester | 25% |
| Discussion Questions | 13% |
| Participation | 27% |
| Research Essay | 20% |
| Presentation | 10% |

Assignments

Research Paper. During the semester, you will write an anthropologically informed research paper based on primary sources. The final paper should be 20-pages, written in formal academic prose with footnotes and bibliography for an audience of other historians. All of you should be able to present your work in an academic setting, such as an undergraduate conference or Moravian College's scholarship day. Please note you will be writing this paper in stages throughout the semester with lots of opportunity for feedback and rewriting between each stage.

Feedback to Others. As part of the process of writing, you will help others with their papers and they will do the same for you. During each stage of writing, you will write up comments to help other members of your writing group. I will assign you to a writing group once the semester is underway. The main audience will be that of your peers, although I will also collect a copy of your comments in order to help you with the important (if often overlooked) skill of offering useful feedback and constructive criticism.

Discussion Questions. Each week that you have assigned readings, prepare a minimum of three questions/comments that you will send to me via blackboard **24 hours** before the class begins. These questions will form the basis of discussion.

Conference. The semester will culminate with a conference in which you will present a version of your paper not only to the class but also to anyone you wish to invite.

Academic Dishonesty

According to the Moravian College Student Handbook, the following constitutes plagiarism: "the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. This principle applies to professional scholars as well as to students....All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work....When students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including the Internet) must be placed in quotation marks...and be accompanied by an appropriate citation." Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero in the course. Please consult the Student Handbook for fuller details.

Students with Disabilities

Students with physical, learning, or medical disabilities should speak to me and contact Laurie Roth, Director of the Learning Center, to arrange the appropriate accommodations. Please make these arrangements in the first weeks of the semester.

Class Schedule

PART I: PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS, AND METHODS

Week 1 – Introduction

Jan. 18

Week 2 – Culture and Ethnohistory

Jan. 25

- Go to the library and search for primary and secondary sources.
- Bring a tentative topic to class, one paragraph in length.

James Axtell, "Ethnohistory: An Historian's Viewpoint," *The European and the Indian: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America*, (1981), 3-15.

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973), 3-32.

Renato Rosaldo, "Border Crossings," in *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989), 196-217.

NOTE: Between Weeks 3 and 5 each of you must make an appointment to see me to discuss your paper.

Week 3 – Writing the History of First People

Feb. 1

- Order potential primary sources by inter-library loan.

Angela Cavender Wilson, "American Indian history or Non-Indian Perceptions of American Indian History," in *Natives and Academics: Researching and Writing about American Indians* (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 23-26.

Deborah Doxtater, "Inclusive and Exclusive Definitions of Difference: Native and European Concepts of Time, History, and Change," in *Decentring the Renaissance: Canada and Europe in Multidisciplinary Perspective, 1500-1700*," eds. Germaine Warkentin and Carolyn Podruchny (1996), 33-47.

Toby Morantz, "Plunder or Harmony? On Merging European and Native Views of Early Contact," in *Decentring the Renaissance: Canada and Europe in Multidisciplinary Perspective, 1500-1700*," eds. Germaine Warkentin and Carolyn Podruchny (1996), 48-67.

Week 4 – Autohistory

Feb. 8

- Write and turn in a page describing your topic, the problem you address, and the how your sources address the subject.
- Compile and turn a table of primary and secondary sources.
- Continue to read primary and secondary sources.

Georges Sioui, *For an Amerindian Autohistory: An Essay on the Foundations of a Social Ethic* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1992).

PART II: THEMES AND ISSUES

Week 5 – Contact

Feb. 15

- Reminder: 5-page Historiography due next week.

Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), ix-xvi, 50-93.

Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron. "From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation-States, and the Peoples in Between in North American History." *American Historical Review* 104 (June 1999): 814-41.

Daniel Richter, "Cultural Brokers and Intercultural Politics: New York-Iroquois Relations." *Journal of American History* 75 (June 1988): 40-67.

James T. Carson, "American Historians and the Indians," *Historical Journal* 49 (2006): 921-933.

Week 6 – Trade

Feb. 22

- 5-page historiography due today.

Bruce Trigger, "Early Native North American Responses to European Contact: Romanticism and Rationalism," *Journal of American History* (1991): 1196-1215.

Laurier Turgeon, "The Tale of the Kettle: Odyssey of an Intercultural Object," *Ethnohistory* 44 (1997): 1-29.

Christopher Miller and George R. Hammel, "A New Perspective on Indian-White Contact: Cultural Symbols and Colonial Trade," *Journal of American History*, (1988): 311-328.

William A. Turnbaugh, "Assessing the Significance of European Goods in Seventeenth-Century Narragansett Society," In *Ethnohistory and Archaeology: Approaches to Postcontact Change in the Americas*, ed. JD Rogers and SM Wilson (New York: Plenum Press), 133-160.

Week 7 – Persistence and Change

Feb. 29

- Return comments on historiography.
- Writing Groups discuss chunks.

Daniel Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience," *William and Mary Quarterly* (1983): 528-59.

James H. Merrell, "The Indians' New World: The Catawba Experience," *William and Mary Quarterly* (1984): 537-565.

Claudio Saunt, "Domestic ... Quiet being broke," Gender Conflict among Creek Indians in the Eighteenth Century," in *Contact Points* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 151-174.

James Taylor Carson, "Native Americans, the Market Revolution, and Cultural Change: The Choctaw Cattle Economy," *Agricultural History* (1997): 1-18.

Week 8 – Spring Recess – No Class

Mar. 7

- Reminder: Essay chunk 1 (9-10 pages) due next week.

Week 9 – Politics and Diplomacy

Mar. 14

- Essay chunk due today.

Writing Groups discuss chunks Epic of the Peacemaker

Mary Druke Becker, "Linking Arms: The Structure of Intertribal Diplomacy," in *Beyond the Covenant Chain: The Iroquois and Their Neighbours in Indian North America, 1600-1800*, eds. Daniel K. Richter and James H. Merrell (1987), 29-39.

Berkhofer, Robert F. Jr. "The Political Context of a New Indian History." *Pacific Historical Review* 40 (August 1971): 357-82.

Galloway, Patricia. "'The Chief Who Is Your Father': Choctaw and French Views of the Diplomatic Relation." In Peter H. Wood, Gregory A. Waselkov, and M. Thomas Hatley, eds. *Powhatan's Mantle: Indians in the Colonial Southeast*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989.

Joshua Piker, "'White & Clean' & Contested: Creek Towns, Trading Paths, and Diplomatic Networks in the Aftermath of the Seven Years' War," *Ethnohistory* 50 (Spring 2003): 315-347.

Week 10 – Easter – No Class

Mar. 21

Week 11 – Religion

Mar. 28

- Return comments on chunk 1.
- Writing Groups discuss chunks.

Sam D. Gill, "Religious Forms and Themes," in Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., ed., *America in 1492: The World of the Indian Peoples before the Arrival of Columbus* (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), 277-303.

Sky Woman

Daniel K. Richter, "Iroquois Versus Iroquois: Jesuit Missions and Christianity in Village Politics, 1642-1686," *Ethnohistory* 32 (1985): 1-16.

Jane T. Merritt, "Dreaming of the Saviour's Blood: Moravian's and the Indian Great Awakening in Pennsylvania," *William and Mary Quarterly* 54 (1997), 723-746.

Neal Salisbury, "Embracing Ambiguity: Native Peoples and Christianity in Seventeenth-Century North America," *Ethnohistory* 50 (Spring 2003): 247-259.

Week 12 – Removal and Reservations

April 4

- Reminder: Rough Draft due next week.

Ila Bussidor and Ustun Bilgen-Reinart, *Night Spirits: The Story of the Relocation of the Sayisi Dene* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1997).

Week 13

April 11

- Draft due today.

Week 14 – Contemporary Political Thought

April 18

- Return comments on drafts
- Discuss drafts.

Alfred, *Peace, Power, and Righteousness* (Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 1999)

Week 15 – TBA

April 25

Essay due.

Ideas for your research paper

- How did First People understand and incorporate Christianity into indigenous systems of belief? Consider either the case of the Jesuits among the Huron, Samuel Kirkland's mission to the Oneidas, or one of the Moravian missions.
- Write an ethnohistorical account of a single incident.
Why did the Iroquois torture Father Brebeuf?
Why did the Aztecs kill Montezuma?
- Consider the life of a single individual, such as Joseph Brant, Louis Riel, John Ross, William Johnson, or Russell Means.
- How did First People respond to European diseases?
- Interpret the gender/kinship metaphors that suffuse treaty documents in northeastern North America.
- Why were the Aztecs unable to defeat the Spanish?
- Write about a single village, Canajoharie or Kanowarohale in the Mohawk Valley for example?
- How did the Cherokee defend themselves against Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy?
- Consider how indigenous sources of power changed over time?
- How did the Powhatans understand the English settlers at Jamestown?
- Consider the changing role of Aboriginal women following contact.
- What role did Aboriginal women play in the fur trade?
- To what extent did the fur trade disrupt or benefit First Nations' communities?
- Why did the Mohawks return to New York in the 1970s?
- Analyze the role of alcohol in First Nations' communities?
- Analyze the boarding school experience in the U.S. or residential schools in Canada.
- Consider the role of casinos in a contemporary Aboriginal community?
- Analyze one event or figure in the Red Power Movement or AIM in the 1960s.
- Analyze the successes and failures of contemporary Aboriginal political organizations.
- Have First People in Canada been successful in using the courts to win recognition of their Aboriginal rights?
- Analyze the Oka crisis in Quebec.

Journals

Ethnohistory

American Indian Quarterly

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

William and Mary Quarterly

Journal of the Early Republic

Journal of American History

American Historical Review

See also, state historical society publications such as *New England Quarterly*, *New York History*, *Ontario History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, or *Pennsylvania History*.

Reference Books

Handbook of North American Indians

Primary Sources

Reuben Gold Thwaites, *The Jesuit Relations*, also available online, 73 vols.

Reuben Gold Thwaites, *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806*, 8 vols.

Reuben Gold Thwaites, *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, 10 vols.

The Papers of Sir William Johnson, 14 vols. (Iroquois and others)

Narratives of New Netherlands, 1609-1664 (Iroquois)

Documentary History of the State of New York, 4 vols. (Iroquois)

Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York 12 vols. CD-Rom.

Charles Johnston, *Valley of the Six Nations* (Iroquois)

Cadwallader Colden, *History of the Five Nations of Canada* (1747). (Iroquois)

Horatio Hale, *Iroquois Book of Rites* (1883)

Paul Wallace, *The White Roots of Peace* (Iroquois)

Thomas S. Abler, *Chainbreaker: The Revolutionary Memoirs of Governor Blacksnake* (Seneca Iroquois)

James Everett Seaver, *Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison* (Seneca Iroquois)

The Journals of Reverend Samuel Kirkland (Oneida Iroquois)

William Beauchamp, *Moravian Journals Relating to Central New York, 1745-1766* (Iroquois)

John Ross, *The Papers of Chief John Ross* (Cherokee)

Elias Boudinot, *Cherokee Editor, The Writings of Elias Boudinot* (Cherokee)

Cherokee Phoenix (Newspaper, 1828-1834), <http://library.wcu.edu/CherokeePhoenix/>

Theda Perdue and Michael Green, *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History and Documents*

Indian Removal Papers

Paper of William Penn

Papers of Henry Bouquet

William Penn's Own Account of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians

The Paxton Papers

Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey and Delaware, 1630-1707

Colonial Records of Pennsylvania

Diary of the Moravian Indian Mission of Fairfield, Upper Canada, 1792-1813

Tuscarawas Valley in Indian Days, 1750-1797

Moravian Indian Mission on White River, Diaries and Letters, 1799-1806

William Beauchamp, *Moravian Journals Relating to Central New York, 1745-1766*

John Heckewelder, *Narrative of the Mission of the United Brethren among the Delaware and Mohegan Indians from its Commencement in the Year 1740 to the close of the Year 1808*

John Heckewelder, *First Description of Cincinnati and other Ohio Settlements: The
Travel Reports of Johann Heckewelder*
John Heckewelder, *The Travels of John Heckewelder*
John Heckewelder, *History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations Who Once
Inhabited Pennsylvania and the Neighboring States*
John Heckewelder, *Thirty Thousand Miles with John Heckewelder*
History of the Girtys: Being a Concise Account of the Girty Brothers