Forging Connections: American Indian History from Ancient North America to Indian Removal & Beyond

**HIS 333 (CRN: 80559): MHRA 1214**
**Instructor:** Steven J. Peach
**Fall 2014:** MWF, 11-11:50

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 12-1.
**Office:** MHRA 2104

I. **Course Summary**

This course investigates the sweeping changes and enduring continuities that punctuated Native North America between the era of the first hunter-gatherers and the forced removal of American Indians to reservations in the nineteenth-century United States. It traces the history of Native people and their encounters with European and African newcomers in the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the Northwest Coast. Each of these regions contained a mishmash of cultural beliefs and practices, shifting political structures, local and far-flung trade networks, various language families and dialects, and diplomatic customs that were the building-blocks of fluid alliance systems. The central theme of this course emphasizes the connections that Native, European, African, and Métis peoples forged in the changing world of Native North America.

In this course, you will be trained in the methods and concepts of “ethnohistory” (a combination of history and anthropology). As ethnohistorians, you will examine the cultures and lifeways of dozens of indigenous groups (anthropology/synchronic), and trace the political, social, and cultural changes of those groups over time (history/diachronic). Part and parcel to this enterprise, this course also introduces you to the concept of “historiography” or the history of the historical scholarship on a given topic.

II. **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:
- Command a thorough knowledge of the diversity and complexity of Native people in North America and the world
- Apply a methodology—i.e. “ethnohistory”—to the study of Indian people by using primary and secondary sources
- Discuss key themes relevant to ethnohistory, such as trade, diplomacy, warfare, power, and culture
- Hold a greater appreciation for Native perspectives
- Master a segment of the Native American historiography
- Achieve a higher proficiency in communication skills

III. **Required Reading:**


IV. Course Requirements
- **10%: Participation.** You’re allowed four excused absences with no penalty.
- **15%: Book Review.**
- **20%: Tribal Study.**
- **20%: Historiographical Essay.**
- **35%: Case Study.**

V. Evaluation of Final Grade
A = Student achieves a high competency in all learning objectives.
B = Student achieves a high competency in most learning objectives.
C = Student demonstrates a fair competency of most learning objectives.
D = Student lacks understanding in most learning objectives.
F = Student performed no work.

VI. Course Guidelines
- Please bring Calloway (and other relevant materials) to every class.
- Late work: I will accept late work but with a penalty.

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**Schedule**

**Unit One**  
The Original “Early” America

8/18, M
8/20, W -
8/22, F -
8/25, M -
8/27, W -
8/29, F -
9/1, M - No class.
9/3, W -

**Unit Two**  
Contact, Invasions, and Negotiations

9/5, F -
9/8, M -
9/10, W -

9/12, F - Review of Mallios due
9/15, M -
9/17, W -

Unit Three
Imperial and Native Adjustments
9/19, F -
9/22, M -
9/24, W -
9/26, F -
9/29, M -
10/1, W -
10/3, F -

Unit Four
Wars, Revolutions, and New World Orders
10/6, M -
10/8, W -

10/10, F - No class. Work on Tribal study
10/13, M - Fall break “ ”
10/15, W - Tribal study due
10/17, F -
10/20, M -
10/22, W -
10/24, F -

**Unit Five**
*American Indians in the United States & the World*

10/27, M -

10/29, W -

10/31, F - Discuss historiography assignment

11/3, M -

11/5, W -

11/7, F -

11/10, M -

**Unit Six**
*Native Americans in a Modern World*

11/12, W -

11/14, F -

11/17, M - Historiography assignment **due**

11/19, W -

11/21, F - Discuss “doing” research

11/24, M -

12/1, W -

**12/8,** 3 P.M., Monday. Case Study due.