HIS 722: Topics in Early American History  
Spring 2010  
American Indian History in Early America

Prof. Greg O’Brien  
Office: MHRA 2110  
Phone: 334-3988  
Email: w gobrien@uncg.edu

The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to the most significant scholarly works on American Indians and Indian-European contact in early America through the Removal era of the 1830s. Students will critically analyze historical monographs through class discussion and written reviews and will write either a research paper based on primary and secondary sources or a historiographical paper.

Required books for purchase:  
Donald L. Fixico, ed., *Rethinking American Indian History* (University of New Mexico Press), 1997

Assignments:  
In addition to the articles that form the common reading each week, you will turn in a written review of your assigned monograph on four weeks and will lead discussion of your readings in class. Class discussion is central to this course and will form a significant part of your grade. Finally, you will write a ~20 page research OR historiographical paper due at the end of the semester. *Everyone* must review a book from the Week 6 selections.

Doing the book reviews:  
You will prepare professional-quality book reviews of each of your assigned weekly readings. Professional quality means that your review could be published in an academic history journal, and, thus, the review should expose the author’s thesis and main supporting points, discuss and evaluate the evidence presented by the author to prove his/her thesis, suggest how this book fits into the historiography on that subject, and tell who the author is. Do NOT tell me that the book is “interesting” for that means absolutely nothing. Do tell me why the book is important, what its flaws (if any) are, and why we must all be familiar with its thesis in order to better understand American Indian history. Browse through the book reviews in the journals *Reviews in American History, Ethnohistory, William and Mary Quarterly* (all are in the library or available online through the J-Stor database) for examples of what I am asking for. You may consult published reviews of the books you are working on, but do not copy and paste from them, as that is cheating, and I want to read your words not someone else’s. Each review should be double spaced and about 3 pages in length, no more than 4 pages and no less than 2.

**Grading:**  
Written Reviews (4): 10% each  40%
**Discussion Participation**  
20%

**Final Paper**  
40%

**Schedule & books for reviews:**

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>The state of early American Indian History &amp; Pre-Contact Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Common Reading: Donald Fixico, <em>Rethinking American Indian History</em> (all)</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Initial Contacts &amp; Interactions</th>
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<td>2/8</td>
<td>Common reading:</td>
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Week 4
2/15

TOPIC FOR RESEARCH OR HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PAPER DUE

Environmental History and American Indian History
Common Reading:


Week 5
2/22

Indian Slavery
Common Reading:
2. William L. Ramsey, “A Coat for 'Indian Cuffy': Mapping the Boundary between Freedom and Slavery in Colonial South Carolina,” The South Carolina Historical


**Week 6**

**Conflicts & Trade (focus on the 18th Century)**

Common reading:

Review Books:

**North & Upper Midwest:**

Kingdom Lost: The Paxton Boys and the Destruction of William Penn’s Holy Experiment; Jane T. Merritt, At the Crossroads: Indians and Empires on a mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763; Peter Silver, Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America

South & West:

American Indian Women & Gender
Common reading:

Review Books: Theda Perdue, Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835; Gunlög Fur, A Nation of Women: Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians; Juliana Barr, Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands; Ramon Gutierrez, When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846; Nancy Shoemaker, ed., Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women; Rebecca Kugel and Lucy Eldersveld Murphy, Native Women's History in Eastern North America before 1900; Camilla
**Week 8**

3/22

**The American Revolutionary Era & Early National Period**

Common reading:


**Week 9**

3/29

**Spiritual Revitalizations, Missionary Activities, & Education**

Common reading:


African American – Indian Interaction & Race

Week 10
4/5

Common reading:

Saunt, Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family; Tiya Miles and Sharon P. Holland, eds., Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country; Katja May, African Americans and Native Americans in the Creek and Cherokee Nations, 1830s to 1920s: Collision and Collusion; Celia E. Naylor, African Cherokees in Indian Territory: From Chattel to Citizens; Jonathan Brennan, ed., When Brer Rabbit Meets Coyote: African-Native American Literature

Week 11 4/12
Indian Removal
Common reading:


Week 12 4/19
Research / Writing Week

Week 13 4/26
Research / Writing Week

Week 14 5/3
Paper Due by 5:00 p.m.