

Humanities Seminars Program

Indians in American History

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Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

October 18 – November 15, 2016

This course examines the shifting relations between American Indians and the invading Euro-Americans from just prior to the War for Independence to the near present. Keeping tribal groups at the center it will focus on their dealings with the growing United States, as the pioneers and their government moved into Indian country. It will show how these changed from contact to cooperation, competition, and conflict between tribal people and the US, and trace Indian diplomacy, trade, and defense as they faced an ever-growing frontier population. Major differences in how the two races thought about land, resources, and a sense of place help to explain the friction and violence that marked relations between them. The US government rarely had any consistent policy for its treatment of the tribes, and even when its goals seemed humane, their implementation could be disastrous. Once military operations against the Indians ended, most of the survivors remained on bleak reservations until after World War II. Since then, educated tribal leaders, changing federal laws, and waning anti-Indian prejudice have brought major changes. While poverty remained high on the reservations, by the late 20th century most Indians lived elsewhere, and increasing cultural pride has changed their situation in the general society markedly.

Recommended text:

Roger L. Nichols. *American Indians in U.S. History*. 2nd ed. University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0806143675.

Miscellaneous articles will be posted by Kerstin Miller on a special Box@UA site for this course. After they are posted, Kerstin will share the link to this site with you.

Topics and Recommended Readings

October 18: A new Enemy--The USA, 1760-1815.

Text, chapter 3, pp. 53-58, chapter 4, pp. 63-75.

Colin Calloway. "‘We Have Always Been the Frontier’: The Americans in Shawnee Country."

October 25: To Join the USA or Not? 1815-1840

Text, chapter 4, pp. 75-84.

Donna L. Akers. "Removing the Heart of the Choctaw People: Indian Removal From a Native Perspective."

November 1: Losing a Continent-Retaining an Identity, 1840-1890

Text, chapter 5

Roger L. Nichols. "The Chiricahua Apache War, 1861-1872." Chapter 7 in Nichols. *Warrior Nations: The United States and Indian Peoples*. University Of Oklahoma Press, 2013.

November 8: Tough Times at Home, 1890-1940s

Text, chapter 6, chapter 7, pp. 141-148.

David Wallace Adams. "More than a Game: The Carlisle Indians take to the Gridiron."

November 15: A Changing World, 1945-present

Text, Chapter 7, pp. 148-159, chapter 8

Dean J. Kotlowski, "Alcatraz, Wounded Knee, and Beyond: The Nixon and Ford Administrations Respond to Native American Protests."