

History 292: Native American History

Fall 2023

Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45, 227 CCC

Section 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15, 227 CCC

Prof. Rob Harper, he/him/his

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00, Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30, Thursdays, 1:00-2:00, or by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives

History 292 surveys the past experiences of the native peoples of the present-day United States: over 500 different peoples spread out over more than ten thousand years. Along the way, you will become familiar with the art of “doing history” (asking questions about the past, using evidence to answer those questions, and evaluating historical scholarship), focusing on the distinctive ethical, political, and methodological questions involved in studying indigenous histories.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the diverse experiences of Native Americans both before and during the era of colonization, and how these experiences have changed over time.
- Explain how native peoples responded to past challenges and opportunities.
- Identify and describe various kinds of evidence used to study Native American history.
- Critically read and analyze historical evidence.
- Recognize and explain how interpretations of Native American history have changed.

Major Texts

- Brenda Child (Red Lake Ojibwe), *Holding Our World Together: Ojibwe Women and the Survival of Community* (2013), required for purchase (HWT)
- Ada Deer (Menominee), *Making a Difference: My Fight for Native Rights and Social Justice* (2019), available from text rental (MAD)
- Xehacíwiga (Ho Chunk), *Mountain Wolf Woman: Sister of Crashing Thunder: The Autobiography of a Winnebago Indian*, edited by Nancy Lurie (1961), available from text rental (MWW)
- Thomas King, *The Truth about Stories* (2003): this is a lecture series available as audio online: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-2003-cbc-massey-lectures-the-truth-about-stories-a-native-narrative-1.2946870>. If you prefer reading, you can purchase the book (TAS).

Contacting Me

Helping you learn is the *most important* and *most rewarding* part of my job. If you would like to talk more about the course, please contact me by email to make an appointment. I receive and reply to email more quickly than phone messages. Please include “History 292” in the subject line and list times when you are free to meet.

How to succeed in History 292

Complete all assignments carefully and thoughtfully. Take notes on readings, lectures, and class discussions (see below). Attend regularly and participate actively (listening as well as speaking). As with any three-credit course, you can expect to spend **6-9 hours each week** on homework, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings. Talk to me individually to ask questions and address any challenges that come up. Please email me at any time to make an appointment.

Critical reading and notetaking

In a college-level history course, effective reading requires different approaches from those that may have worked for you in the past. For all materials in this course, ask yourself these questions:

- Who wrote this? When? For what audience? Why?
- How is this reading related to other things you've learned?
- What do you find most interesting, surprising, or challenging about this reading?
- What questions do you, as an individual, have about this topic? Is the reading answering them? What new questions does the reading make you think about?

Active reading and notetaking will enable you to remember much more, and for much longer, than rote memorization. For each assignment, take handwritten notes (research suggests that we learn more when taking notes by hand than by typing). It usually works best to read one section, then quickly summarize it in a couple of sentences or a short list of key ideas, then move on to the next section. If possible, review your notes before completing written assignments or taking tests. For every hour of reading (or listening or viewing), spend no more than 5-10 minutes taking notes. Your notes are for your eyes only (you won't hand them in).

Reading journal

Throughout the semester you will regularly write about assigned readings (and videos, podcasts, etc.) You will choose which assignments to write about, but you must submit at least twelve journal entries in total, including four in each of the three units.

To complete each journal entry, you will write thoughtfully about the material for about 30 minutes. Specific guidelines will vary (and will be posted in Canvas), but in general you will:

1. Share your own experience of reading the assigned material (your expectations, things you found interesting or challenging, your emotional response, and/or questions and concerns about the material).
2. Respond to specific questions provided in the assignment prompt.

In many cases you may not know the answers to the questions, and you may not understand everything in the material, and that's okay: writing thoughtfully about the material will earn full credit. I am especially interested in finding out what you think and how you feel about the assigned reading. You may find it helpful to start writing by summarizing what you read, but you will not earn credit unless you also share your thoughts about it and answer the assigned questions.

Journal entries are due the morning of the relevant class meeting. To accommodate unforeseen circumstances I will accept them up to 24 hours late with no penalty. After that, late journal entries

will earn no more than half credit. No journal entries will be accepted after the end of the unit in which they are assigned.

Attendance and in-class work

Success in this class requires active face-to-face participation. Attendance and in-class assignments factor into your final grade. However, I understand that sometimes you must miss class due to circumstances beyond your control, and that sometimes you would rather not share the details with me. And I'm good with that: your reasons for missing class are your own business. With all that in mind, here are the rules:

- You may miss up to four class meetings (and any corresponding in-class work), without penalty, *regardless of the reason*.
- You may not make up missed classes, or any in-class work missed, *regardless of the reason*.
- If you must miss more than four class periods, for any reason, you must contact me ASAP to discuss how you can complete the course successfully.

In general, I recommend that you avoid missing class except for emergencies. If you get seriously ill in week 10, and have already missed four classes, this policy will not help you.

Exams

Three unit exams will consist of short-answer questions. They may also include document analyses (to be explained in class) and a few multiple-choice questions. In general, the questions will have to do with the meaning and significance of key terms and concepts listed at the top of the unit schedules, below. The exams will NOT require you to regurgitate information you have memorized. Failure to take an exam as scheduled will result in an F for the course unless I approve alternative arrangements beforehand.

On all exams, you may refer to a single sheet of handwritten notes (you may write on both sides of the sheet). The exams are not cumulative: each exam will include material only from that unit.

Optional Reading in the Disciplines Section

To help you succeed in this course, you may choose to enroll in an optional one-credit, pass-fail [Reading in the Disciplines](#) (RID) section run by the UWSP Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC). This section will meet once a week with a student facilitator to discuss the assigned readings. A facilitator will visit our class early in the semester to explain the program.

To add one of the discussion courses to your schedule, click on My Classes in accesSPoint, Add/Drop Classes, and Add Classes. There is a box to enter the 5-digit number for PSL 109/Reading In the Disciplines. Enter:

- **82347** (for PSL 109-13, meeting Mondays, 1:00-1:50, starting 18 September in CCC 226)
or
- **82348** (for PSL 109-14, meeting Wednesdays, 11:00-11:50, starting 20 September in CCC 320)

Please reach out to Amanda Meidl (ameidl@uwsp.edu) with any further questions or concerns.

Students with Disabilities

I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of students of all abilities. Students requesting accommodation must first meet with the staff of UWSP's Disabilities Services and Assistive Technology Center (DATC). I will allow no accommodation until I receive and agree to a formal plan approved by DATC.

Academic Integrity

I will report cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, following the policies laid out in UWSP's Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures. To learn more about academic integrity, please ask me and consult this document:

https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015_Aug_AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf. Students found to have committed academic misconduct will receive an F for the course.

Use of Student Work

Students often benefit from seeing examples of strong work completed by other students. For that reason, I may distribute exemplary student work, after removing all identifying information. If you object to my using your work in this way, please notify me and I will respect your wishes.

Grading

Attendance and short assignments:	20%
Reading journal:	20%
Exam #1:	20%
Exam #2:	20%
Exam #3:	20%

Words

Many people have been taught to avoid the term “American Indian” and instead refer to this continent’s indigenous peoples as “Native Americans.” In fact, both terms are objectionable (for different reasons) and yet both are widely used in America today. Many indigenous people prefer “Indian”; others prefer “Native.” The United States government uses “American Indian,” but that term does not include Native Alaskans and Pacific Islanders. Canadians refer to most of their country’s indigenous peoples as “First Nations,” except for the Inuit (indigenous people of the Arctic) and Métis (communities of multiracial ancestry). Australia favors “Aboriginal Australians,” except when referring to the indigenous people of the Torres Strait Islands. In Aotearoa, also known as New Zealand, indigenous inhabitants are known by the name they call themselves: Maori. When referring to indigenous peoples of the United States, either “American Indian” or “Native American” will do, but always keep in mind that these terms encompass several hundred distinct nations, each with its own language, culture, and history. Using “American Indian” or “Native American” is like using “Eurasians” instead of “Germans,” “Russians,” “Iranians,” and “Koreans.” Yes, it’s technically correct, but vague. Whenever possible, avoid BOTH “Indian” and “Native American” and instead refer to specific nations by name.

Words to Avoid

Many historical sources use unfamiliar vocabulary, including racial and ethnic terms that we do not, and should not, use today. So be prepared to encounter such words in the documents we read in this class. However, please do not use outdated or offensive language in class or in written assignments, except in quotations. Here is a quick guide.

	Present-day terms	Some outdated and/or offensive terms
Species	Human being(s), humanity, people, person	Man, Mankind (as gender neutral)
Political and ethnic	American, American Indian, Native American, First Nations, Spanish, Angolan, Ojibwe, Cherokee, Inuit, Iowan, Latina/o, other specific national, state, and tribal terms (more specific terms are almost always better).	Using racial terms (white, black, Indian, Asian) in place of more specific terms. Using “Hispanic” as an ethnic term.
Racial (imaginary groups by which we categorize ourselves and one another)	White, Black, African American, Asian American, biracial, multiracial, métis	Tribesman, redskin, brave, chief (unless an official position), negro, squaw, wench, oriental, mulatto, mixed blood, half-breed, Caucasian, “the White Man”

Words to Learn

It is best to refer to indigenous people by using the name that their specific nation uses to describe themselves to others: Menominee, Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, etc. This can get confusing because there are often several distinct terms. Some common terms, like Sioux and Iroquois, were coined by the enemies of the people they refer to, and are best avoided if possible. Familiarize yourself with the (very partial) list below. Present-day Wisconsin nations are listed in *italics*. Historical Wisconsin nations are underlined.

Names of Indian nations	Groups comprised of several nations	Language family
<i>Ho Chunk (also Winnebago)</i>		Siouan
Pawnee		
<u>Santee (Eastern) Dakota</u>	Oceti Sakowin Oyate; Sioux (term used by their enemies)	
Yankton/Yanktonai (Western) Dakota		
Lakota		
<i>Menominee (Mamaceqtaw in the Menominee language)</i>	Anishinaabe (plural Anishinaabeg); Three Fires	Algonquian
Odawa (also Ottawa)		
Ojibwe (also Chippewa), including Wisconsin communities at Bad River, Lac Court Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Sokaogon (Mole Lake), and St. Croix.		
Potawatomi (including the Forest County community in Wisconsin).		
<i>Stockbridge-Munsee</i>		
<i>Brothertown</i>	Descended from people of the Mohegan, Pequot, Niantic, Narragansett, Montaukett, and Tunxis nations; not federally recognized	
<u>Meskwaki</u>	Sac and Fox Nation	Iroquoian
<u>Sauk</u>		
Mohawk	Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse); League of the Six Nations; Iroquois (term used by their enemies)	
Oneida (including Oneida Nation of Wisconsin)		
Tuscarora		
Onondaga		
Cayuga		
Seneca		
Cherokee (Aniyvwiyaʔi, spelled DhBQcD in the Cherokee syllabary)		

Schedule of Assignments

The assignment schedule, and specific requirements, are posted on Canvas.

Unit 1, Sept. 5-Oct. 5: Peoples and Stories

Key terms and concepts: authenticity; blood quantum; cultural appropriation; the ecological Indian; expertise; federal recognition; language revitalization; the “noble savage”; oral tradition; tribal enrollment; triple citizenship.

Thursday, Oct. 5: Unit 1 exam

Unit 2, Oct. 10-Nov. 9: Sovereignties

“The treaties and laws of the United States contemplate the Indian territory as completely separated from that of the States... The Indian nations had always been considered as distinct, independent political communities retaining their original natural rights as undisputed possessors of the soil, from time immemorial... The Constitution... has adopted and sanctioned the previous treaties with the Indian nations, and consequently admits their rank among the powers who are capable of making treaties.” —Supreme Court of the United States, 1832.

Key terms and concepts: 1491; allotment; assimilation; boarding schools; plenary power; Ancient One; fur trade; lead mining; mound building; removal; reserved rights; sovereignty; treaties; trust relationship; US-Dakota War; *Worcester vs. Georgia*.

In addition, you should learn to identify Wisconsin’s twelve native nations (eleven federally recognized, and one unrecognized) and briefly describe how they came to live in their current territories.

Thursday, Nov. 9: Unit 2 exam

Unit 3: Survivance

“Native survivance is an active sense of presence over absence, deracination, and oblivion; survivance is the continuance of stories, not a mere reaction, however pertinent. Survivance is greater than the right of a survivable name.” —Gerald Vizenor (Ojibwe)

Key terms and concepts: American Indian Movement; fish-ins; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC); Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); Indian Reorganization Act (IRA); *McGirt vs. Oklahoma*; Menominee Restoration Act; Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); *Oneida Nation vs. Hobart*; Public Law 280; relocation; self-determination; termination; Voigt decision

Thursday, Nov. 23: No Class. Give Thanks.

Exam #3 schedule:

- Section 1: Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2:45-4:45, in CCC 227
- Section 2: Thursday, Dec. 21, 10:15-12:15, in CCC 227