

## **Native American Women's History**

### History 477

Dr. Dawn Marsh  
Office UNIV 128  
dmarsh@purdue.edu

UNIV 219  
Office Hours TTH 1:30-2:30  
TTH 12:00-1:15

#### **Description**

This course thematically explores the history of Native American women in North America. The course is grounded in the particular theoretical and methodological concerns of indigenous history and the intersection of indigenous, women's and feminist studies. Topics will include colonization and decolonization, identity, sovereignty, activism, leadership, kinship, stereotypes and public images.

#### **Course Objectives**

- Knowledge of the main topics in the political, social, cultural, and economic history of Native American women
- Analytical skills sufficient to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, to analyze arguments and interpretations, and to recognize interpretive conflicts
- Research skills sufficient to conduct an investigation, consulting appropriate works for developing a bibliography
- The ability to interpret evidence found in primary sources and develop an historical argument based on and sustained by the evidence available
- Writing skills sufficient to write historical essays that are coherent, cogent, and grammatically correct

#### **Required Texts**

Various articles available on Blackboard  
Perdue, Theda, ed. Sifters: Native American Women's Lives  
Shoemaker, Nancy Negotiators of Change

#### **Assessment**

Your success in this course depends solely on your attendance, preparation, participation and completion of assignments.

#### Attendance

This course is a 400 level, upper division course. Role will be taken at each class meeting. It is expected that you have acquired a mature, professional outlook regarding your undergraduate education and that your absences will be limited to illness, or conflicts with other obligations that are unavoidable. If you are unable to attend class

for one of the forenamed reasons, you are required to send an email, informing me of your absence. An accumulation of unexplained absences will negatively impact your grade.

### Preparation

Students are required to read ALL assigned readings thoroughly BEFORE the class meets. In order to discuss the readings it is imperative that you take notes while reading the articles and prepare one discussion question for each reading assigned. These questions will be used during the class period to initiate discussion. **Your questions are due by 8:00 A.M. by email each day readings are assigned.** They will be evaluated on their quality and depth.

### Participation

The course centers on the discussion of assigned readings. The lecture portion of the class meetings will be brief and will only provide the historic context for the assigned readings. The greater part of each class meeting will be a discussion of the assigned readings. All students are expected to make meaningful contributions to the class discussion over the course of the semester.

### Assignments

Discussion Questions Due: By 8:00 A.M. each day readings are assigned  
Group film Assignment (1200 words) Due: Thursday, 1/20/2011  
Primary Document Analysis (800 words) Due: Thursday 1/27/2011  
Response Essays (Current News) (1200 words) Due: Thursday 2/17/2011  
Bibliography Assignment (Nation/Tribe) Due: Tuesday 3/22/2011  
Research Essay and Presentation (2500 words) Due: Friday, April 15, 2011

### Extra Credit Opportunity

Special Event Attendance: Each semester the Native American Educational and Cultural Center (NAECC) and the Native American Student Association (NASA) host a variety of events. I will provide information on the events as they become available.

### **Schedule**

#### **Week 1 January 11-13**

#### **Indigenizing the Academy: Theory and Methods**

##### Tuesday

Introductions/Administrative Tasks

##### Thursday

Shoemaker, "Introduction," in Negotiators of Change Shoemaker F  
Bell, "Gender in Native America," in A Companion to American Indian History BB  
Mihesuah, "A Few Cautions on the Merging of Feminist Studies with Indigenous Women's Studies" in Indigenous American Women BB

Film Assignment: Group and film assignment  
Sacagawea: Far Horizons, 1955  
The New World, 2006  
Edge of America, 2006  
Duel in the Sun, 1946

**Week 2 January 18-20**

**Representations and Myths**

Tuesday

Barbie, "Sacagawea: the Making of a Myth," in Sifters  
Marubbio, Excerpt from Killing the Indian Maiden BB  
Rountree, "The Hostage Who Became Famous," in Sifters

Thursday

Film Discussion and Assignment

**Week 3 January 25-27**

**Origins: All Our Grandmothers**

Tuesday

Excerpt from Sacred Hoop  
Selection of origin stories (Handout)  
Primary document analysis workshop

Thursday

Assignment: Primary Document Analysis

**Week 4 Feb 1 Feb 3 (No class)**

**Gender**

Tuesday

Woodsum, Gender and Sexuality in Native American Societies: A Bibliography  
Green, Native American Women, Signs, BB

Thursday

**NO CLASS**

**Week 5 February 8 Feb 11 (No class)**

**First Encounters**

Tuesday

Brown, "Anglo-Algonquian Gender Frontier," in Negotiator of Change  
Kidwell, "Indian Women as Cultural Mediators," in Kugel and Murphy BB  
Green, "Mary Musgrove: Creating a New World," in Sifters

Thursday

**NO CLASS**

## **Week 6 February 15-17**

### **Spider Grandmothers, Skywomen and Saints: Spirituality and Religion**

#### Tuesday

Shoemaker, "Kateri Tekawitha's Tortuous Path to Sainthood," in *Negotiators*  
Schutt, "Female Relationships and Intercultural Bonds in Moravian Indian Missions," in *Friends and Enemies in Penn's Woods* BB

#### Thursday

Media Response Essay Due

Sleeper-Smith, "Women, Kin and Catholicism: New Perspectives on the Fur Trade," in Kugel and Murphy BB

Perdue, "Katherine Brown, Cherokee Convert to Christianity," in *Sifters*

## **Week 7 February 22-24**

### **Education**

#### Tuesday

Trennert, "Educating Indian Girls at Nonreservation Boarding Schools, 1878-1920," *WHQ*  
BB

Mihesuah, "Too Dark to be Angels: The Class System Among the Cherokees at the Female Seminary," *AICRJ* BB

#### Thursday

Hafen, "Gertrude Simmons Bonnin: For the Indian Cause," *Sifters*

Lomawaima, "You're a Woman, You're Going to be a Wife," in *They Called It Prairie Light*  
BB

## **Week 8 March 1-3**

### **Work**

#### Tuesday

Murphy, "Autonomy and the Economic Roles of the Fox-Wisconsin Riverway Region, 1763-1832," in *Negotiators*

Carson, "From Cornmothers to Cotton Spinners: Continuity in Choctaw Women's Economic Life A.D. 950-1830," in *Women of the American South* BB

#### Thursday

Wright, "Economic Development and Native American Women in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century," *American Quarterly* BB

Reynolds, "Maria Montoya Martinez: Crafting a Life, Transforming a Community," *Sifters*

## **Week 9 March 8-10**

### **Politics and War**

#### Tuesday

Carson, Molly Brant: From Clan Mother to Loyalist Chief, in *Sifters*

Moore, "Lozen: An Apache Warrior," in Sifters  
Kersey, "Patchwork and Politics: The Evolving Roles of Seminole Women in the Twentieth Century," in Negotiators

Thursday

**NO CLASS**

**Spring Break March 13-19**

**Week 10 March 22-24**

**Fourth World Warriors: Resistance and Activism**

Tuesday

Bibliography Assignment Due

Lurie, "Ada Deer: Champion of Tribal Sovereignty" in Sifters

Hauptman, "Alice Lee Jemison: A Modern Mother of the Nation" in Sifters

Thursday

Perdue, "Women, Men and American Indian Policy: The Cherokee Response to Civilization," Negotiators

Kidwell, "Choctaw Women and Cultural Persistence in Mississippi, in Negotiators

**Week 11 March 29-31**

**Violence**

Tuesday

Smith, "Not an Indian Tradition: The Sexual Colonization of Native Peoples," Hypatia BB

Poupart, "The Familiar Face of Genocide: Internalized Oppression among American Indians," in Hypatia BB

Thursday

Barr, "Captives to Slaves: Commodifying Indian women in the Borderlands," in JAH BB

De la Torres, "Sexual violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest: Amerindian Women and the Spanish conquest of Alta California" in Building with Our Hands BB

**Week 12 April 5-7**

No Class-Research Essay

**Week 13 April 12-14**

No class-Research Essay

**Week 14 April 19-21**

Research Presentations

**Week 15 April 26-28**

Research Presentations

## **Company Policies**

### **Cheating / Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

### **Disclaimer:**

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.