

Native American Women's History
History 477

Dr. Dawn Marsh
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Class TH 10:30-11:45
Classroom UNIV 301
Office Hour T 11:45-12:45

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, feminist and post-colonial studies. Topics will include colonization and decolonization, identity, sovereignty, activism, leadership, kinship, stereotypes and public images. This course is conducted as a seminar which means that each meeting will center on discussion of the assigned materials. It is essential that students come to class prepared to discuss the readings, pose questions, and share their thoughts on the assigned material. It is not a lecture driven course.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the main topics in the political, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic history of Native American women
- Students will exhibit analytical skills sufficient to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, to analyze arguments and interpretations, and to recognize interpretive conflicts through reviews and essays
- Students will validate their research skills sufficient to conduct an investigation, consulting appropriate works through developing a research proposal, bibliography, and essay
- Students will prove their ability to interpret evidence found in primary sources and develop historical arguments based on and sustained by the evidence available
- Students will demonstrate writing skills sufficient to produce historical essays that are coherent, cogent, and grammatically correct

Required Texts

Readings will be assigned as pdfs available through BB or direct email attachment from professor.

Assessment

- Book Reviews (2) 800 words each
- Research Essay (proposal and preliminary bibliography, outline and annotated bibliography, PPT and presentation) 5000 words/20 pages
- Precis and discussion questions (10) 1 page

Unexcused absences, tardiness, and failure to fulfill course obligations (including preparation and assignments) will have an impact on your final grade. Assignments turned in late will be

docked one full letter grade each day. This is an upper division seminar class and professional conduct is expected.

Attendance

Role will be taken. It is a small class and any absences will have an impact on the whole class. It is imperative that you attend all sessions. Any absences must be accompanied by documentation.

Important Dates

Thursday 8/31 No class
Thursday 10/5 No class
Tuesday 10/10 Fall Break
Tuesday 10/31 No class
Thursday 11/2 No class
Thursday 11/23 Holiday Break

Assignment Due Dates

Thursday 9/21 Proposal and preliminary bibliography
Thursday 9/28 Book review
Thursday 10/26 Outline and annotated bibliography
Thursday 11/9 Book review
Thursday 11/30 PPT due
Tuesday 12/12 Essay

Class Schedule

Week 1 August 22-24

Tuesday: Introduction

Thursday: Theory and Methods

Shoemaker, Nancy. "Introduction," to *Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women* (New York: Routledge, 1995), 1-25. Available on BB.

Mihesuah, Devon. "A Few Cautions on the Merging of Feminist Studies with Indigenous Women's Studies" in *Indigenous American Women: Decolonization, Empowerment, Activism* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003) 3-13. Available on BB.

Week 2 August 29

Tuesday: Myths and Stereotypes

Marubbio, M. Elise. "Emergence of the Celluloid Maiden," in *Killing the Indian Maiden: Images of Native American Women in Film*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2006. Available on BB.

Green, Rayna, "Pocahontas Perplex: The Image of Women in Native American Culture," *The Massachusetts Review*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Autumn, 1975), 698-714. Available on BB

Thursday: No class

Week 3 September 5-7

Tuesday: Native American Feminisms and Violence Against Women

Kim Anderson. "Affirmations of an Indigenous Feminist/Feminism," in *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2010): 81-91. (Requested from HSSE 8/7)

Maracle, Lee. "Who's Political Here?" in *Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America* ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1997), 247-258. Available on BB.

Thursday: Native American Feminisms and Violence Against Women

"Maze of Injustice: The Failure to Protect Indigenous women from Sexual Violence in the U.S." Status on the Report of Women," Amnesty International, 2006.

Available on BB and at: <http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/AMR510352007.pdf>

Sutherland, David, *PBS Frontline: Kindhearted Woman*, Documentary, WGBH, 2013

Available for streaming through Kanopy. <https://purdue.kanopystreaming.com/video/frontline-kind-hearted-woman>

Week 4 September 12-14

Tuesday: Boarding School Experience

Trennert, Robert A. "Educating Indian Girls at Nonreservation Boarding Schools, 1878-1920." *The Western Historical Quarterly* 13, no. 3 (1982): 271-90. Available on BB.

Child, Brenda J. *Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940*. Lincoln, NE, USA: University of Nebraska Press, 1998, complete book. Etext available:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=3039292>

Thursday: Boarding School Experience

Research Workshop Handouts

Week 5 September 19-21 Proposals Due 9/21

Tuesday: Settler Colonialism

Karen Anderson. *Chain Her By One Foot: The Subjugation of Native Women in Seventeenth-Century New France* (New York: Routledge, 1991), Chapters 1 and 5. Available on BB.

Barr, Juliana. *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007) Intro, Ch. 1 and 2.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=880038>

Thursday: Settler Colonialism

Jacobs, Margaret. *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press), 1-24.

Chap 1 "Gender and Settler Colonialism" available on BB and from

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=452163>

O'Brien, Jean. "Divorced from the Land: Accommodation Strategies of Indian Women in Eighteenth-Century New England" in *Gender, Kinship, and Power: A Comparative and Interdisciplinary History* (Rutledge, 1995), 319-333. Available on BB.

Simpson, Audra. "Captivating Eunice: Membership, Colonialism, and Gendered Citizenships of Grief." *Wicazo Sa Review* 24, no. 2 (2009): 105-29. Available on BB.

Anne Laura Stoler (ed.). "Tense & Tender Ties," in *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), 23-67. Available on BB.

Week 6 September 26-28 Book Review Due 9/28

Tuesday: Book Discussion

Mankiller, Wilma. *Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women*. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Press, 2003.

Available as etext:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=478315>

Thursday: Guest Lecture

Terese Maillot

Week 7 October 3-4

Tuesday: Native American Women and Religion

Koppedrayner, K. I. "The Making of the First Iroquois Virgin: Early Jesuit Biographies of the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha." *Ethnohistory* 40, no. 2 (1993): 277-306.

Available on BB.

Schutt, Amy C. "Tribal Identity in the Moravian Missions on the Susquehanna." *Pennsylvania History* 66, no. 3 (1999): 378-98. Available on BB.

Thursday: No class

Week 8 October 12

Tuesday (Fall Break)

Thursday: Native American Women and Work

Berman, Tressa. *Circle of Goods Women, Work, and Welfare in a Reservation Community*. SUNY Series in Anthropological Studies of Contemporary Issues. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003, Chapters 1 and 5. Available on BB

Cathleen D. Cahill. "An Indian Teacher among Indians: Native Women As Federal Employees." In *Indigenous Women and Work: From Labor to Activism*, 210-35. Urbana; Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2012. Available on BB.

Week 9 October 17-19

Tuesday: Native American Women and Work

Film: *Weaving Worlds*, Bennie Klain, 2008. (Personal collection Amazon Video)

Thursday: Guest Lecture Marlene Longbottom

"Tiddas Speakin': Indigenous Women's Self-Presentation Within White Feminist Academics' Talk," in Moreton-Robinson, Aileen. *Talkin' up to the White Woman: Aboriginal Women and Feminism*. St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 2000. (Request sent ILL 8/8/17)

"Indigenous Feminisms Panel," You Tube Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HnEvaVXoto&t=682s&list=PLydrisSJfFba4a1_7dH7qhjqcQWkVvWEL&index=1

Week 10 October 24-26 Outline Due 10/26

Tuesday: Indigenous Women and Material Culture

Patricia Albers and Bea Medicine, "The Role of Sioux Women in the Production of Ceremonial Objects: The Case of the Star Quilt," in Albers, Patricia and Beatrice Medicine. *The Hidden Half: Studies of Plains Indian Women*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1983, 123-143. Available on BB.

Brenda J. Child. "Wilma's Jingle Dress: Ojibwe Women and Healing in the Early Twentieth Century" in Hurtado, Albert L., and Wilma Mankiller Symposium on American History. *Reflections on American Indian History: Honoring the Past, Building a Future*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008, 113-136.

Thursday: Indigenous Women and Material Culture

Rand, Jacki Thompson., and NetLibrary, Inc. *Kiowa Humanity and the Invasion of the State*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008, Ch. 6 "Households of Humanity" from *Kiowa Humanity and the Invasion of the State*. Available online through Purdue Libraries Ebsco Host

Sarah Hill. *Weaving New Worlds: Southeastern Cherokee Women and their Basketry* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997) Prologue, Ch 4, and Epilogue. Requested ILL 8/10/17

Week 11 October 31-November 2

Tuesday No Class

Thursday No Class

Week 12 November 7-9 Book Review due 11/9

Goeman, Mishuana. "Notes toward a Native Feminism's Spatial Practice." *Wicazo Sa Review* 24, no. 2 (2009): 169-87. Available on BB.

Jacobs, Margaret D. "Working on the Domestic Frontier: American Indian Domestic Servants in White Women's Households in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1920-1940." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 28, no. 1/2 (2007): 165-99. Available on BB.

Krouse, Susan Applegate. "What Came out of the Takeovers: Women's Activism and the Indian Community School of Milwaukee." *American Indian Quarterly* 27 (2003): 533-4), P.533-547. Available on BB.

Ramirez, Renya K. *Native Hubs : Culture, Community, and Belonging in Silicon Valley and beyond*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007, Intro (1-26) and Ch. 7 (171-198). Available on BB.

Thursday: Guest Lecture

Janelle Cronin

Week 13 November 14-16

Tuesday: All Our Grandmothers—Origins Stories and Gender

Bierhorst, John. "Delaware Creation Story." In *Sky Loom: Native American Myth, Story, and Song*, edited by Brian Swann, 400-409. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014.

Available on BB.

"The Woman Who Fell From the Sky," in *Spider Woman's Granddaughters*, Paula Gunn Allen, ed. (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989) 56-58. Available on BB.

"The Beginning and End of the World," in *Spider Woman's Granddaughters*, Paula Gunn Allen, ed. (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989) 106-107. Available on BB.

"Coyote Kills Owl Woman," in *Spider Woman's Granddaughters*, Paula Gunn Allen, ed. (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989) 112-116. Available on BB.

"Yellow Woman Stories," in *Spider Woman's Granddaughters*, Paula Gunn Allen, ed. (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989) 181-188. Available on BB.

Thursday: Native American Women Artists

Farris, Phoebe. "Contemporary Native American Women Artists: Visual Expressions of Feminism, the Environment, and Identity." *Feminist Studies* 31, no. 1 (2005): 95-109.

Available on BB.

Pearce, Richard. *Women and Ledger Art*. University of Arizona Press, 2013, Forward (xiii-xvii, Introduction 1-11, select the chapter and art of one of the four artists in the book).

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/reader.action?docID=3411830&ppg=8>

Week 14 November 21

Tuesday: TBA

PPTs due by Monday November 27

Thursday

Holiday Break

Week 15 November 28-30

Tuesday: Presentations

Thursday: Presentations

Week 16 December 5-7 Dead Week

Tuesday and Thursday

Extended office hours

Finals Week December 12

Tuesday: Research Essay due