

H 377 Native American History and Culture  
Spring 2025



*The American Indian*, Fritz Scholder, 1970.



*Abbi of Bacabi*, T.C. Cannon, 1978.

Dr. Dawn G. Marsh  
Office: Beering 6108  
Email: [dmarsh@purdue.edu](mailto:dmarsh@purdue.edu)  
Office Hours: T-Th 1:45-2:45

Course Schedule: T Th 3:00-4:15  
Class Location: WALC 2127

The primary purpose of this course is to dispel stereotypes, crush racism, and encourage you to value the history and culture of Native American and Indigenous people.

### Course Description

This course provides a general overview of Native American history and culture as experienced by the Indigenous peoples in North America highlighting the regions that became the United States from pre-contact through the mid-twentieth century. This course will present a general overview of events and themes critical to understanding their experiences. I will introduce you to a broad array of historical episodes and cultural ideas that continue to impact Native and Indigenous American lives today. Through a variety of media, we will explore the struggles for land, identity, resources, creativity, and power which characterize the Indigenous American experience. Your success in the course depends on your active participation in various aspects of the class and your timely completion of all required work.

## Course Objectives

Clearly articulate historical analysis in written responses, while demonstrating a strong understanding of historical concepts and terminology.

Present the results of collaborative historical research. Work with team members during weekly workshops and share responsibilities for presenting the analyses and evidence discovered.

Distinguish between primary and secondary sources, evaluate their reliability and bias.

Evaluate historical evidence, identify cause-and-effect relationships, and analyze the complexities of historical events within their broader context.

Reflect on the ethical implications of historical interpretation and the potential biases present in historical narratives about Native Americans.

Interconnect and communicate the key federal policies and legislation impacting Native Americans.

Develop an understanding of the legacy of European and American colonization on Native American communities and nations from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

Changes Amendments to the syllabus are sometimes necessary. All changes in the syllabus will be announced in class, via email, and/or posted on Brightspace.

### Required Texts (both required)

- Michael L. Oberg, *Native America: A History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2022, 978-1119768494
- Tommy Orange, *There, There*. Vintage Books, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-525-43614-0

### **Assessments**

Workshop Assignments (12 @15 pts)

Online quizzes (9 @ 20 pts) due Fridays 11:59 pm

Book Analysis (1 @ 100 pts)

Final Exam (1@ 100 pts)

Total course points: 560

### Workshop Assignments

Students will be required to complete 12 workshop assignments. Each assignment is worth 15 points.

Completed assignments will be printed and collected at the end of Thursday's class period.

**Students who are absent on any given Thursday will either forfeit the points or submit a written 500-word summary of that week's assigned chapter. Students will have 48 hours to submit the alternative assignment in Brightspace for equivalent points. No exceptions.**

Workshop assignments are available on Brightspace. Most assignments will have links and/or a collection of media (images, maps, clips, documents) you will access through the Brightspace course.

### Online Quizzes (due some Friday 11:59 pm)

Students are required to complete 9 online quizzes worth 20 points each. Each quiz will evaluate your comprehension of a single chapter of the assigned Oberg text. Each quiz will have a deadline. Students who do not complete the quiz by the deadline will receive 0 points. No exceptions.

### Book Analysis

Students are required to read Tommy Orange's novel, *There, There* and complete the assignment posted in Brightspace. The assignment will be due before the class discussion of the text. Assignments submitted past the due date will be docked 5 points for each day late. This assignment will be uploaded to Brightspace. **Failure to complete this assignment results in failure of the course.**

### Final Exam

Students will complete an online final exam worth 100 points. The final exam will be cumulative and include material available through the assigned text, course lectures, and workshops. Exams submitted after the deadline will be reduced one letter grade. **Failure to complete this exam results in failure of the course.**

### **Course Organization**

#### Lecture:

Tuesdays will be devoted to lectures and slides with opportunities for questions and discussion. It is imperative that you come to class prepared by reading and/or viewing the assigned content **before** class.

#### Workshop

Thursdays will be devoted to workshops and the associated assignments. Students will be organized into teams that will be assigned a task to complete. Some weeks you will be required to work on the assignment before Thursday's class meetings and some weeks all work will be completed in class. Groups will work together on the tasks, but each student will be responsible for their work in the class. **Hardcopies of the assignments will be submitted for grading at the end of the class.**

#### Teams

Students will be divided into six teams: Wabash, Patoka, Mississinewa, Kankakee, Tippecanoe, Maumee (all team names are Indigenous language names for water related sites in Indiana). The student composition of the teams will be rotated during the semester.

#### Brightspace

The course Brightspace will be a source of information and resources such as your weekly assignments, guidelines, quizzes and the final exam. Your grades will be posted on Brightspace as they become available. I will also send class and individual emails via Brightspace as well as announcements regarding changes in the syllabus or other pertinent information.

#### Attendance

Role will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. **More than five absences without notice will be noted and ultimately impact your final grade. Repeated tardiness or early departure will also be noted and ultimately impact your final grade.** If you participate in university-sanctioned extra-curricular activities that will cause you to miss class, it is your responsibility to inform the professor as far in advance as possible. Likewise, other life events that prevent your attendance require notification and should be discussed with me.

#### Communication

Your quickest access to communicating with me is by email (dmarsh@purdue.edu). I respond to email during normal working hours, M-F. I expect your emails to conform to a professional communication with both a salutation and a signature (your name). It is also helpful if you identify the course number you are enrolled in. **It is very important that you communicate any problems, concerns, or issues you have related to the course. If there are personal, health, or other issues that are making your success in the course challenging it is up to you to discuss those with me. Otherwise, I'm in the**

**dark. If there is anyone or anything happening in the classroom that is problematic, my door is open, and I am listening.**

#### Class Ethics

This class is intended to encourage open, informed discussions and I hope to protect and foster a classroom atmosphere that will encourage open and enlightened discourse in the class. Ultimately, I would hope that you take those ideas and informed discussions with you beyond the classroom. Respect, open-mindedness, and tolerance will be the standard for all classroom discussions. I encourage you to ask questions you may have on this topic either in class or privately. If you encounter any bullying, unfair treatment, or have any negative experiences in my classroom or beyond, please consider my office, Beering 6108, a safe space where you can voice those concerns.

#### Academic Integrity

Students are required to abide by the rules of academic honesty and integrity provided by Purdue University. Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated at any level in my classroom. Students who do so will receive an "F" for the course and will be adjudicated to the History Department Head.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1 Jan 14-16**

Tues: Administrative, Group Organization

Introductory Lecture

Thurs: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 1 Myths and Legends

Quiz 1

#### **Week 2 Jan 21-23**

Tues: Lecture

Oberg, Ch 2 Oberg, Worlds New and Old

Thurs: Workshop 1 Maps

Quiz 2

#### **Week 3 Jan 28-30**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Chapter 3 Living in the New World

Thurs: Workshop 2

Quiz 3

#### **Week 4 Feb 4-6**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 4 Indigenous Peoples and the Fall of Empires

Thurs:

Workshop 3

#### **Week 5 Feb 11-13**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 4 Indigenous Peoples and the Fall of Empires

Thurs:

Workshop 4

Quiz 4

**Week 6 Feb 18-20**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 5 Indigenous Peoples and the Rise of the New American Empire

Thurs:

Workshop 5

**Week 7 Feb 25-27**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 5 Indigenous Peoples and the Rise of the New American Empire

Thurs:

Workshop 6

Quiz 5

**Week 8 March 4-6**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 6 Relocations and Removes

Thurs:

Workshop 7

**Week 9 March 11-13**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 6 Relocations and Removes

Thurs:

Workshop 8

Quiz 6

**Week 10 Spring Break****Week 11 March 25-27**

Tues: Oberg, Chapter 7 Invasion of the Great West

Read:

Thurs: Workshop 9

**Week 12 April 1-3**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Chapter 7 Invasion of the Great West

Thurs:

Workshop 10

Quiz 7

**Week 13 April 8-10**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 8 The Age of Dispossession

Thurs:

Quiz 8

**Week 14 April 15-17**

Tues: Lecture

Read: Oberg, Ch 9 Old Deals and New Deals

Thurs:

Workshop 12

Quiz 9

**Week 15 April 22-24**

Tues:

Read: Tommy Orange, *There, There*

Thurs:

Tommy Orange, *There, There*

Analysis 20 points

**Week 16 April 29-May 1 (Quiet Time)**

Tues: TBD

Thurs: TBD

**Week 17 Finals Week May 4-10**

Final