

HISTORY 37600 — History of Indiana

Spring 2026 • 3 Credit Hours

MWF • 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM • Wetherill 160

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. David Cambron

Office: Beering Hall 6173

Email: dmcambro@purdue.edu

Phone: 765-426-7440

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:30–1:30 PM or by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the **economic, political, and social history of Indiana** from its origins in the old Northwest Territory to the present.

A central theme is the **tension between tradition and change**. Indiana communities often defended local customs against external pressures for progress, while still imagining ambitious futures. Throughout Indiana's history, diverse peoples—Native Americans, the French, British, Americans, and later immigrants—shaped the state's culture, conflicts, and identity.

Despite globalizing forces, distinctive aspects of the **Hoosier character** endure, rooted in Indiana's unique past.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Develop a well-informed understanding of Indiana history.
- Recognize the complexity of historical narratives and counter-narratives.
- Understand what historians do and how they construct interpretations.

- Strengthen reading, inquiry, and critical writing skills.
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Required Reading

- **James H. Madison**, *Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana* (2014). Available online through Purdue Libraries.
 - **Andrew R. L. Cayton**, *Frontier Indiana* (1998).
 - **David Thomas Murphy**, *Murder in Their Hearts: The Fall Creek Massacre* (2010).
 - **Journal and article readings** posted on Brightspace throughout the semester.
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Lecture Schedule

Organized by course parts for clarity.

Part I

Week 1

- Jan 12: Course Introduction
 - Jan 14: Prehistoric Indiana
 - Jan 16: The Miami and Their Ways
- Readings:** Cayton Ch. 1; Jones & Johnson; Marsh (2022); "John Purdue" (IMH Press)

Week 2

- Jan 19: **No Class — MLK Jr. Day**
 - Jan 21: The French
 - Jan 23: The British
- Readings:** Cayton Ch. 2–3; Jacobs (1948)

Week 3

- Jan 26: George Rogers Clark
 - Jan 28: Northwest Ordinance and Federal Authority
 - Jan 30: Indian Resistance & Treaties
- Readings:** Cayton Ch. 4–6; Remini (1988)

Week 4

- Feb 2: William Henry Harrison, Slavery, and Land
 - Feb 4: Tippecanoe and the War of 1812
 - **Essay 1 Due at 12 AM**
 - Feb 6: Democratic Impulse, Constitution, Statehood
- Readings:** Cayton Ch. 7–9

Week 5

- Feb 9: Beavers to Hogs, Corn to Whiskey
 - Feb 11: Early Settlement Patterns
 - Feb 13: Making a Living on the Frontier
- Reading:** Murphy, *Murder in Their Hearts*
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Part II

Week 6

- Feb 16: **Test 1**
 - Feb 18: Land Policy
 - Feb 20: Moral Economy and Local Control
- Readings:** Madison Ch. 4; Gates (1939); Nation Ch. 1

Week 7

- Feb 23: Banking
 - Feb 25: Internal Improvements I
 - Feb 27: Internal Improvements II
- Readings:** Madison Ch. 5; Duden (1909); Perry (2013)

Week 8

- Mar 2: Religion
 - Mar 4: Education
 - Mar 6: Reformers & Utopians
- Readings:** Madison Ch. 6–7; Conklin (1910); Pitzer & Elliot (1979)

Week 9

- Mar 9: Indian Removal
 - Mar 11: Constitution of 1851
 - Mar 13: Politics of Sectionalism
- Readings:** Larson & Vanderstel (1984); Madison Ch. 8

Week 10

Spring Break — No Class

Week 11

- Mar 23: Sectionalism Continued
 - Mar 25: Political Realignment
 - **Essay 2 Due at 12 AM**
 - Mar 27: Colonel Eli Lilly & the Civil War
- Readings:** Barnhart (1961); Seigel (1990)
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Part III

Week 12

- Mar 30: The Civil War
 - Apr 1: **Test 2**
 - Apr 3: Reconstruction & Reunion
- Readings:** Madison Ch. 9; Hiller (2009)

Week 13

- Apr 6: Gas Boom
- Apr 8: Labor & Industrial Takeoff

- Apr 10: Education & Urbanization
Readings: Taylor (2008); Robertson (1996); Martin (Ch. 11 & 7)

Week 14

- Apr 13: New Arrivals
- Apr 15: Eugenics & Science
- Apr 17: Middletown
Readings: Madison Ch. 10; Quellet (2000); Osgood (2001)

Week 15

- Apr 20: Hoosier Values: Vigilantism, Prohibition, Klan
- Apr 22: A Little New Deal
- Apr 24: Indiana at War
 - **Essay 3 Due at 12 AM**
Readings: Madison Ch. 12–13; Hoover (1991); Martin (Ch. 14)

Week 16

- Apr 27: *Everglades of the North* (film)
- Apr 29: Basketball
- May 2: Johnny Appleseed & Hoosier Myths

Week 17

Final Exam (Test 3)

Attendance

Attendance is expected.

Although attendance will not be taken, **you are responsible for lecture material, readings, videos, and assignments**, and regular attendance is necessary to succeed.

Grading

Point Breakdown

Assignment	Points
Exam 1	40
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	60
In-Class Responses (4 of 5)	20
Essays (3 × 10 points)	30
Total	200 points

Course Letter Grades

Points	Grade
180–200	A
160–179	B
140–159	C
120–139	D
0–119	F

Assignment Descriptions

Exams

Three in-class exams (not cumulative):

- Short-answer questions + one essay
- Study guides provided

In-Class Responses

- Five informal written responses
- Lowest score dropped
- Total of 20 points

Reading Response Essays

- Three short essays (2 pages each)
 - Worth 10 points each
 - Graded on clarity of thought and organization (not grammar unless unreadable)
 - Submitted through Brightspace
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University Policies

Grief Absence Policy

Students with Disabilities (DRC statement)

Nondiscrimination Policy

Violent Behavior Policy

Mental Health Resources

Emergency Notification Procedures

Shelter-in-Place and Evacuation Procedures

Emergency Preparedness Links

Full explanations available on Brightspace.