

H 377: Native American History and Culture

Spring 2025

Instructor: Dr. Dawn G. Marsh

Office: Beering 6108

Email: dmarsh@purdue.edu

Office Hours: Tue & Thu, 2:00–3:00 PM

Course Schedule: Tue & Thu, 12:00–1:15 PM

Class Location: STON 215

Course Purpose

The course aims to **dispel stereotypes, challenge racism**, and help students value the rich history and cultures of Native American and Indigenous peoples.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of Native American history and culture from **pre-contact through the mid-twentieth century**, with emphasis on regions that became the United States.

Students will explore:

- Key historical events
- Core cultural themes
- Indigenous struggles for land, identity, resources, and sovereignty
- The impact of settler colonialism
- Enduring cultural resilience and creativity

Your success depends on consistent participation and timely completion of assignments.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Clearly articulate historical analysis with accurate use of concepts and terminology.
 2. Present collaborative research findings during weekly workshops.
 3. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and assess their reliability.
 4. Reflect on the ethical dimensions of interpreting Native American histories.
 5. Explain key federal policies and legislation impacting Native communities.
 6. Understand the legacy of colonization on Native nations from the 16th century to today.
-

Required Texts

- **Colin G. Calloway**, *First Peoples* (Macmillan Higher Education, 2023).
Ebook ISBN: 9781319522223 | Print ISBN: 9781319244576
 - **John Sayles**, *To Save the Man* (Melville House Publishing, 2025).
 - **Tommy Orange**, *There, There* (Vintage, 2019).
-

Brightspace

Brightspace will include:

- Syllabus updates
 - Weekly readings
 - Workshop assignments
 - PPTs (after class)
 - Quizzes
 - Midterm and final exam materials
 - Announcements
-

Course Organization

- **Tuesdays:** Lecture covering the week's assigned reading.

- **Thursdays:** Workshop days for deeper engagement and collaborative analysis.

This pattern may shift due to holidays or schedule adjustments.

Course Preparation

- **Weekly reading must be completed before class on Tuesday.**
 - **Chapter quizzes** are due **every Monday by 11:59 PM** on Brightspace.
 - No late submissions
 - No make-ups
 - Workshop preparation varies; follow instructions for each week.
-

Attendance Policy

- Attendance will be taken at each class.
 - More than **five unexcused absences** will impact your final grade.
 - Tardiness or early departure will also be recorded.
 - University-sanctioned absences: notify the instructor in advance.
 - No medical documentation required—just send a brief email.
-

Classroom Ethics

The classroom is a **respectful, open, inclusive space**.

You may share concerns about bullying, discrimination, or negative experiences with the instructor confidentially in office hours.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism or cheating results in:

- **An automatic "F" in the course**

- **Referral to the History Department Head**

Follow Purdue's academic honesty policies.

Assessment Overview

Assignment Type	Quantity	Points	Total Points
Workshops	10	15 pts each	150 pts
Book Assignments	2	75 pts each	150 pts
Chapter Quizzes	10	15 pts each	150 pts
Midterm	—	100 pts	100 pts
Final	—	100 pts	100 pts
Total	—	—	550 pts

Assignment Details

Workshops (Thursdays)

- Group work; each student submits their own response.
- **If absent**, points are forfeited *unless*:
 - University-related travel — submit before class
 - Illness — submit within 24 hours

Submit hard copies in class (not via Brightspace).

Midterm and Final

- Comprehensive exams covering all material up to the due date
 - Posted on Brightspace **one week before due dates**
 - **Midterm late policy:** -5 points per day late
 - **Final late policy: No late submissions accepted** (zero if missed)
-

Course Schedule

(Subject to change; updates posted on Brightspace and announced in class)

Week 1 (Jan 13–15)

- Tues: Introduction, Administration
- Thurs: Lecture

Week 2 (Jan 20–22)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 1
- Thurs: Workshop 1

Week 3 (Jan 27–29)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 2
- Thurs: Workshop 2

Week 4 (Feb 3–5)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 3
- Thurs: Workshop 3

Week 5 (Feb 10–12)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 4
- Thurs: Workshop 4

Week 6 (Feb 17–19)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 5
- Thurs: Workshop 5

Week 7 (Feb 24–26)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 6
- Thurs: Workshop 6

Week 8 (Mar 3–5)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 7
- Thurs: Workshop 7

Week 9 (Mar 10–12)

- Tues: *To Save the Man* (Sayles)
- Thurs: *To Save the Man*

Week 10 (Mar 17–19)

Spring Break — No Class

Week 11 (Mar 24–26)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 8
- Thurs: Workshop 8

Week 12 (Mar 31–Apr 2)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 9
- Thurs: Workshop 9

Week 13 (Apr 7–9)

- Tues: Read Calloway Ch. 10
- Thurs: Workshop 10

Week 14 (Apr 14–16)

- Tues: *There, There* (Orange)
- Thurs: *There, There*

Week 15 (Apr 21–23)

- Tues: TBD
- Thurs: TBD

Week 16 (Apr 28–30) — Quiet Week

- Extended Office Hours

Finals Week (May 4–9)

Final Due: Tuesday, May 5

Weekly Reminder

Chapter quizzes are due every Monday by 11:59 PM.

No late quizzes. No make-ups. No extra credit.