

HIST 469/569
American Indian History: Topic: Plains Indians
Spring 2009
Instructor: Jeff Ostler
Class Hours: 4:00-5:20 MW
Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 WR
 or by appointment
301 McKenzie Hall
Phone: 346-1265
email: jostler@uoregon.edu

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of the Native peoples of the Great Plains region of the United States. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the diversity of Plains Indian communities, their ways of life (including modes of production, social organization and values, worldview, and religious and cultural practices), the larger structures that affected their lives, the strategies they pursued over the past two hundred years of their history, and some of the debates about their history. In analyzing Plains Indian history, I will emphasize (1) that Native communities pursued different strategies and that various strategies all had a logic, and (2) that Native communities exercised agency but often under significant constraints.

Readings:

The following required readings are available for purchase in the Duck Shop, formerly known at the University of Oregon Bookstore:

John G. Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks*
Mary Crow Dog, *Lakota Woman*

There are also several required articles and excerpts from books (list appended) available under “course documents” on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

1. Three papers analyzing and reflecting on a particular issue covered in different periods of the course. Each paper should be about four pages in length.
 - The first paper will be due on April 20 and will cover material in the first three weeks of class.
 - The second paper will be due on May 18 and will cover material in weeks four through seven.
 - The third paper will be due at the time of the final exam and will cover material in the last three weeks of class.Each paper will be worth 20% of your grade.
2. Three quizzes to be given in class on April 22, May 13, and June 3. All the quizzes together

will be worth 20% of your grade.

3. A final exam to be given on Tuesday, June 9, at 3:15. I will give you essay questions in advance and ask you to write on two questions. The exam will be open book/open note and will be worth 20% of your grade.

Note: Graduate Students in 569 have additional requirements, as described in a separate document.

Schedule:

Week 1

3/30

Introduction: The Great Plains and the Native peoples of the Plains

4/1

Land and Animals

Readings: Fowler (1), Medicine Crow, Harrod (1), Powell, Morsette

Week 2

4/6

Land and Animals—continued

Readings: Barsh and Marlor, Harrod (2), Irwin

4/8

Horses and trade

Readings: West, Hämäläinen

Week 3

4/13

Gender

Readings: Peters, Klein

4/15

Decline of bison

Readings: Krech, Isenberg

Week 4

4/20

Disease

Readings: Churchill, Dollar, Powers and Leiker

FIRST PAPER DUE

4/22

State projects

Readings: Ronda, Anderson

FIRST QUIZ

Week 5

4/27

U.S. conquest

Readings: Josephy, Fowler (2)

4/29

U.S. conquest—continued

Readings: 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty, *Report and Journal of Proceedings, New*

York

Herald selection

Week 6

5/4

Visions

Readings: *Black Elk Speaks* (chapters 1-11), Linderman

5/6

Reservations and colonialism

Readings: Ostler, Foster

Week 7

5/11

The Black Road

Reading: *Black Elk Speaks* (chapters 12-25)

5/13

Who was Black Elk?

Readings: Rice, Steltenkamp

SECOND QUIZ

Week 8

5/18

Education, cattle, dams

Readings: Adams, Iverson, Lawson

SECOND PAPER DUE

5/20

Screening of *The Searchers* (1956 film, directed by John Ford)

Week 9

5/25

Memorial Day–no class

5/27

Discuss *The Searchers*

Readings: Pye, Colonnese

Week 10

6/1

Red Power

Readings: Wilkinson, Crow Dog

6/3

Red Power–continued

THIRD QUIZ

Final exam: Tuesday, June 9, 3:15-5:15

THIRD PAPER DUE

HIST 469/569
American Indian History:
Topic: Plains Indians
Spring 2009

Readings

Loretta Fowler, "Introduction," *The Columbia Guide to American Indians of the Great Plains* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), pp. 3-16.

"The Crow Migration Story," in Joseph Medicine Crow, *From the Heart of Crow Country: The Crow Indians' Own Stories* (New York: Crown, 1992), pp. 16-24.

Howard L. Harrod, "The Crow Tobacco Society," in *Renewing the World: Plains Indian Religion and Morality* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1987), pp. 108-114.

Peter J. Powell, "Sweet Medicine, the Prophet," in *Sweet Medicine: The Continuing Role of the Sacred Arrows, the Sun Dance, and the Sacred Buffalo Hat in Northern Cheyenne History*, vol. 2 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969), pp. 460-466.

Alfred Morsette, Sr., "The Young Woman Who Became a Bear," in *Myths and Traditions of the Arikara Indians*, compiled by Douglas R. Parks (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996), pp. 146-152.

Russel Lawrence Barsh and Chantelle Marlor, "Driving Bison and Blackfoot Science," *Human Ecology* 31 (December 2003): 571-593.

Howard L. Harrod, excerpt on Blackfoot Sun Dance, in *Renewing the World*, pp. 117-134.

Lee Irwin, "Greater Plains Cosmography," chapter 2 of *The Dream Seekers: Native American Visionary Traditions of the Great Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), pp. 26-55.

Elliot West, "The Called Out People," chapter 4 of *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998), pp. 63-93.

Pekka Hämäläinen, "The Western Comanche Trade Center: Rethinking the Plains Indian Trade System," *Western Historical Quarterly* 39 (Winter 1998): 485-513.

Virginia Bergman Peters, "The Flight of the Waterbirds: Village Women Farmers" and "Village Women and the Plains Trade Network," chapters 10 and 12 of *Women of the Earth Lodges: Tribal Life on the Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), pp. 108-124, 143-157.

Alan Klein, "The Political Economy of Gender: A 19th Century Plains Indian Case Study," in *The Hidden Half: Studies of Plains Indian Women*, edited by Patricia Albers and Beatrice

Medicine (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1983), pp. 143-165.

Shepard Krech III, "Buffalo," chapter 5 of *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1999), pp. 123-149.

Andrew C. Isenberg, "The Wild and the Tamed," chapter 5 of *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History, 1750-1920* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 130-143, 156-163.

Excerpt from Ward Churchill, *A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust Denial in the Americas, 1492 to the Present* (San Francisco: City Lights, 1997), pp. 151-157, 260-261.

Clyde D. Dollar, "The High Plains Smallpox Epidemic of 1837-38," *Western Historical Quarterly* 8 (January 1977): 15-38.

Ramon Powers and James N. Leiker, "Cholera among the Plains Indians: Perceptions, Causes, Consequences," *Western Historical Quarterly* 29 (Autumn 1998): 317-340.

James P. Ronda, "The Teton Confrontation," chapter 2 of *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984), pp. 27-41.

Gary Anderson, "Lamar, His Generals, and Ethnic Cleansing," and "The Indians' Last Stand in Central Texas," chapters 11 and 12 of *The Conquest of Texas: Ethnic Cleansing in the Promised Land, 1820-1875* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005), pp. 172-194.

Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., "The Iron Fist," chapter 9 of *The Civil War in the American West* (New York: Knopf, 1991), pp. 292-316.

Loretta Fowler, "The Great Plains from the Arrival of the Horse to 1885," in *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas*, vol. 1, North America, pt. 2, edited by Bruce G. Trigger and Wilcomb E. Washburn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 21-44.

1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, in *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, vol. 2, edited by Charles J. Kappler (Washington, D.C., G.P.O., 1904), pp. 998-1003.

Report and Journal of Proceedings of Commission Appointed to Obtain Certain Concessions from the Sioux Indians, 44th Cong., 2d Sess., 1876-77, S. Ex. Doc. 9, serial 1718, pp. 29-44.

"The Indian Problem," *New York Herald*, September 23, 1876, p. 7.

Frank B. Linderman, *Plenty-Coups: Chief of the Crows* (1930; Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1962), pp. 47-76.

Jeffrey Ostler, "'All Men are Different': The Politics of Religion and Culture," chapter 8 of *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 169-193.

Morris W. Foster, "The Reservation Community, 1875-1901," chapter 3 of *Being Comanche: The Social History of an American Indian Community* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1991), pp. 75-99.

Julian Rice, "Distancing Black Elk and Neihardt," chapter 4 of *Black Elk's Story: Distinguishing Its Lakota Purpose* (Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1991), pp. 15-35.

Michael P. Steltenkamp, preface, and "Conversion," chapter 2, of *Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993), pp. xi-xxiii, 29-43

David Wallace Adams, "Institution," in *Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875-1928* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995), pp. 97-135.

Peter Iverson, "Indian Cattle Ranching in the Northern Plains," chapter 4 of *When Indians Became Cowboys: Native Peoples and Cattle Ranching in the American West* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), pp. 52-85.

Michael Lawson, "Uprooted," chapter 4 of *Dammed Indians: The Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux, 1944-1980* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982), pp. 45-67.

Douglas Pye, "Double Vision: Miscegenation and Point of View in *The Searchers*," in *The Movie Book of the Western*, edited by Ian Cameron and Douglas Pye (Sutio Vista, 1996), pp. 229-235.

Tom Grayson Colonnese, "Native American Reactions to *The Searchers*," in Arthur Eckstein and Peter Lehman, eds., *The Searchers: Essays and Reflections on John Ford's Classic Westerns* (Wayne State University Press, 2004), pp. 335-342.

Charles Wilkinson, "Red Power," chapter 6 of *Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2005), pp. 129-149.