

Kennesaw State University
History 4490/01
American Studies 3760/01
Native Americans and Empires
M/W 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
SO2031
Fall 2009

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SO4092
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Office Hours: M/W, 12:30-1:30 p.m., and by appointment

Course Description: This course examines the culture of the Native Peoples of the Americas and their interaction with one another and with the European colonizing powers from the fifteenth century through the removal of the Native nations in the eastern United States in the 1830s. Topics covered include differing Native and European perceptions of “the other,” trade, religious conversion, diplomacy, and warfare. We will also compare different Native responses to the colonizers and the various policies toward the Natives adopted by European nations. The course covers most of the Americas, including the Caribbean, Central, South, and North America, as well as the major European colonizing powers: Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, and England.

Course Goals: Students will gain an understanding of the diversity of Native cultures before European contact, key elements of those cultures including social and political elements, the impact Native and European cultures had upon each other, and the ways in which both peoples tried to adapt to the new circumstances created by contact. You will gain this information through reading of primary and secondary sources, lecture, and class discussion, and will also develop and improve your research and analytical skills through written assignments.

Expectations: Success in this course requires prompt completion of all reading assignments, active class participation, and a solid effort on all exams and writing assignments. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Attendance will be taken frequently and used to help assess your level of effort. Students who demonstrate consistent effort may have their final grade adjusted upward. If you miss a lecture class, you should get the notes from a classmate. Should you miss a discussion and wish to receive partial credit, you must explain your absence to me in person and complete a makeup assignment. Makeup exams are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances, subject to verification of the reason for absence and my approval.

Required Texts:

James Axtell, *Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America*
Stuart B. Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahuatl Views of the Conquest of Mexico*

Allan Greer, *The Jesuit Relations: Natives and Missionaries in Seventeenth-Century North America*

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following criteria:

Mid-term Exam – 20%

Final Exam – 25%

Two Short Papers – 15%

Research Paper – 20%

Discussion – 20%

Course Schedule and Assignments:

(Subject to Change)

Aug. 17: Introduction

Readings: None

Aug. 19: Europe in the Late 15th Century/Beginnings of Exploration

Readings: None

Aug. 24: Discussion: Defining Ethnohistory and the Other

Readings: Axtell, 1-45

Aug. 26: Native Peoples of the Caribbean

Readings: None

Aug. 31: Columbus and the Founding of Spain's Caribbean Empire

Readings: Axtell, 46-75

Sept. 2: The Columbian Exchange

Readings: None

Sept. 7: No Class – Labor Day

Sept 9: The Aztecs

Readings: None

Sept. 14: The Conquest of Mexico

Readings: Schwartz, all.

First Short Paper Due

Sept. 16: The Incas
Readings: None

Sept. 21: The Conquest of the Incas; Spanish Imperial Policy
Readings: None

Sept. 23: Native Cultures of Southern North America
Readings: None

Sept. 28: The De Soto Expedition
Readings: Axtell, 217-232

Sept. 30: The Natives of Brazil and the Portuguese
Readings: None

Oct. 5: Native Peoples of Canada
Readings: None

Oct. 7: Viking Encounters; Review

Oct. 12: **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 14: French-Native Encounters: Trade and the Middle Ground in Canada
Readings: Axtell, 77-103

Oct. 19: Religious Conversion in Canada
Readings: Greer, all.
Second Short Paper Due

Oct. 21: The French-Native Military Alliance
Readings: None

Oct. 26: Native Peoples of Eastern North America
Readings: None

Oct. 28: English-Native Relations: Trade
Readings: Axtell, 104-141

Nov. 2: English-Native Relations: Conversion
Readings: Axtell, 143-213

Nov. 4: English-Native Conflict
Readings: Axtell, 233-279

Nov. 9: Dutch-Native Relations
Readings: None

Nov. 11: Natives and the European Struggle for Empire, 1750-1763
Readings: None

Nov. 16: Native Americans and the American Revolution
Readings: None

Nov. 18: Natives and the Early American Republic
Readings: None

Nov. 23: Native Cultural Revival: Tecumseh and the Prophet
Readings: None

Nov. 25: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30: Indian Removal; Retrospective: Native Americans and European Empires
Readings: Aztell, 282-335

Dec. 2: Review
Research Paper Due

Miscellaneous

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

Assignments: Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

Problems and Personal Matters: If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course. Please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.