

Native American History

Spring 2022

MWF 2:30-3:20 STRONG 401

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Gram

EMAIL: JohnRGram@MissouriState.edu

PHONE: 417-836-5378 (office)

OFFICE: Strong 436

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 11:30-1:30 (or by appt)

If you communicate with me through email, you MUST use your MSU email. This is MSU's policy, not mine.

Email is ALWAYS the best way to reach me. I usually stop checking my email around 6pm on weekdays; I check it rarely on weekends. During the week, I respond to all emails within 24 hours (usually much sooner). On the weekends or during holiday breaks, it may take 48 hours or longer. **If I have not responded to an email (during the week) within 24 hours, please email me again.** It's not nagging.

Also, if you discuss something with me right after class, please always send a follow up email!

A FEW NOTES ON EMAIL ETIQUETTE

- 1) Your email should include a proper citation (Hello Dr. Gram, Dear Dr. Gram, etc), plus your class AND section number (so I can more quickly answer your question).
- 2) You should always check the syllabus, the announcements folder on Blackboard, and assignment prompts to make sure that your question has not already been answered somewhere else.
- 3) Please do not ask me in class or email me to ask when assignments will be graded. I will always email the entire class when I am done grading an assignment.

A Few Notes on the Nature of This 500-Level Course:

1) This course is **reading intensive**. You should plan to set aside some time each evening to read for this course. If you will commit to reading a small amount each night, the reading load will not overwhelm you.

2) This course has a **significant writing element**. There are no exams in this course. Instead, we have a series of shorter papers, as well as one longer paper toward the end. Overall, you will probably write between 25-30 pages total for this course. This is very reasonable for a 500-level course, but it may be more than you have experienced in the past. I have tried to make this easier by splitting up the writing into multiple assignments.

3) This course is **discussion-based**. This means that more is expected from attendance than just being a warm body. I expected everyone to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. Showing up and staring at your phone is NOT the same thing as being present.

COVID PROTOCOLS

The mask mandate for the classroom is still in place for now. The university will reevaluate the mandate later this Spring. **This means that you must *properly* wear a mask at all times during class. If you refuse to do so, you will be required to leave; you will not be allowed to return to class without agreeing to comply with the mask mandate.**

If you are Covid positive or have Covid-like symptoms, do NOT come to class. Get yourself tested as quickly as you can. **Email** me so that I know why you are not in class. **While you are in quarantine**, keep up with class readings and assignments. **You will need to get notes from a classmate** upon your return. **I do not strictly lecture from notes, so I do not have notes to share with you.**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF OUR COURSE HAS TO GO ONLINE?

There are several reasons our course may have to go online at some point this semester. It is my intention to keep this course seated as much as possible. However, a significant number of students missing class because of Covid, a change in university policy, or even an extended illness for myself may require a change to online for a limited period of time.

If we have to go online we will NOT have live classes. If we have to go virtual, it will mean that there may suddenly be many more changes to your life: work schedule, child care, times of the

day that you have computer and internet access, etc. Therefore, I do not believe it is reasonable to assume that you will always be free at the time our class meets now. **Instead, I will release course work a week at a time for you to complete during the week at your own pace.**

This means that **you WILL need to have consistent internet access.** We will continue to submit assignments through blackboard, and blackboard is also how I will deliver course material to you. That said, I will try to make any internet requirement for the course as low-tech as possible.

Assignment due dates and details MAY change. Any changes would be designed to make the course easier to complete in the online format. I would not make the course harder, nor would I add additional work to just keep you “busy.” Due dates would not be moved up; if they changed, it would only be to give you more time to complete assignments, if I think that is necessary.

Office hours MAY change, but I will DEFINITELY still have them. I will continue to make myself accessible to you through the week, most likely through Zoom appointments. My “virtual office hours” may not be the same as those at the beginning of the semester, but I will make sure that I am available to you the same number of hours throughout the week.

A NOTE ABOUT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

I do not tolerate cheating in my course. The most common forms of cheating I see are: using prohibited sources on assignments, copying other students’ assignments, and plagiarism – usually, but not always, in the form of representing someone else’s work or ideas as your own. This list is not exhaustive, and you are responsible for being familiar with MSU’s Academic Dishonesty Policy (see the “University Policies” on Blackboard).

You are all adults now, and I will hold you to adult standards. If I suspect academic dishonesty has occurred, I will certainly give you a chance to explain your side. However, if I still believe cheating has occurred, I will report it to the university -- as I am required to do. **You will most likely automatically receive a zero on any assignment where I believe cheating took place. You will have no opportunity to make up the work or improve that grade. If it is a particularly egregious example of cheating, the first time you are caught may have additional consequences. If you are caught cheating a second time, you will most likely automatically fail the course – probably with an XF (yes, this has happened multiple times before).** The University provides you an opportunity to protest an accusation of academic dishonesty. Hopefully, I will never have a need to discuss this process with any of you, but we will certainly go over this as part of discussing any alleged incident of cheating.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE POLICY:

[Please note that required quarantining will be an exception to this policy.]

Attendance in this course is **mandatory**. Each day I will circulate a sign-in sheet, starting at the beginning of class. **It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the sheet to demonstrate your attendance.** If there is no signature, I will count you as absent. Please note that signing for someone else will be viewed as an act of academic dishonesty and disciplined as such.

You may miss up to THREE (3) class periods with no penalty. Absences for participating in school-sanctioned activities (e.g. travel for a club or athletic event) do NOT count toward these three. Keep in mind that missing three days is the equivalent of one week of class! In other words, this is a pretty generous policy. **Your THREE (3) allowed absences include unexcused AND excused absences.** An absence is an absence is an absence.

Because I do not make any distinction regarding why you have missed, you do not need to provide any sort of documentation for class absences – the exception being school-sanctioned absences or Covid-related quarantines. It also means, though, that the fourth absence gets a penalty, period – even if you think it might qualify as an excused absence. So, **save these absences for true sickness or emergencies!** Certainly, if there are extraordinary circumstances involved, such as a multi-week hospital stay, we can discuss how that might affect enforcement of this policy and what sort of documentation might be needed at that point.

I will deduct 20 points from your final grade (out of 800 total points in the course) for each absence after the third – again, regardless of why you missed from the fourth absence onward. Don't burn through your absences recklessly!

Just because you have these absences available doesn't mean you have to use them! **Regular attendance is both expected and highly advised.** Each lecture we will cover some material not covered by the textbook, yet you will still be responsible for this material on the exams. Thus, **regular attendance is crucial for success in this course.**

If you miss class, you need to get notes from a classmate.

Course Description:

Though Europeans thought they were exploring a “New World” in the Western Hemisphere, North and South America were, in fact, quite “old” in terms of habitation, as well as social, cultural, and political development. In fact, the human history of North America goes back

perhaps 50,000+ years – certainly well before Columbus “discovered” Native Americans in 1492. In part, the purpose of this course is to help students understand and appreciate on its own terms the long history of Native American occupation of the New World, in particular what is now the United States.

A second goal of this class is for students to gain a different perspective on American history, studying it from the point of view of the indigenous people who interacted with the nation as it slowly spread across the continent. By doing so, students will learn to think critically about the past, realizing that there are often multiple perspectives about historical figures and events. In the end, students will learn that American history is not something that simply happened to Native Americans, but something in which they actively participated and which they shaped in profound ways – just as they are still doing to this day.

Required Texts:

- 1) First Peoples by Calloway (our main textbook)
- 2) Our Beloved Kin by Lisa Brooks
- 3) Unworthy Republic by Claudio Saint
- 4) Lakota America by Pekka Hamalainen
- 5) Red Power Rising by Bradley Shreve
- 6) There There by Tommy Orange

Class Assignments:

Primary Source Papers (100 each)	300
Essays (100 each)	200
Historiography Paper (Multiple Parts)	<u>350</u>
	850

CALCULATING FINAL GRADES:

800+ = A	680-714 = B-	570-594 = D+
765-799 = A-	655-679 = C+	510-569 = D
740-764 = B+	630-654 = C	(MSU does not assign D-)
715-739 = B	595-629 = C-	<510 = F

Explanation of Assignments:

PRIMARY SOURCE PAPERS (300 pts total; 100 pts each)

Three times this semester you will be asked to evaluate a series of primary sources that cover the same topic and/or historical event. You will receive a prompt for each paper closer to time.

Primary Source Paper 1	Friday, February 4 by 11:59pm
Primary Source Paper 2	Friday, April 1 by 11:59pm
Primary Source Paper 3	Friday, May 6 by 11:59pm

ESSAYS (200 pts total; 100 pts each)

Twice this semester you will be asked to write an essay that requires you to analyze a significant portion of our course material. You will receive a prompt for each essay closer to time.

Essay 1	Friday, March 4 by 11:59pm
Essay 2	Friday, April 22 by 11:59pm

HISTORIOGRAPHY PAPER (350pts total)

Rather than a Final Exam this semester, you will turn in a historiography paper as your final project. We will discuss this in much more detail in class on February 11.

You will turn in three separate assignments as part of your historiography paper: a topic proposal, an annotated bibliography, and then the paper itself. Details about how to complete the topic proposal and the list of sources will be given closer to time.

Topic Submitted for Approval	Friday, February 25 by 11:59pm
Sources Submitted for Approval	Friday, March 25 by 11:59pm
Final Paper Submission	Thursday, May 19 by 7pm

LATE SUBMISSIONS

You may submit assignments in this course up to 24 hours late for a 15% penalty. You may submit them up to 48 hours late for a 30% penalty. No late assignments will be accepted after 48 hours.

The one exception to this policy is the Historiography paper due during Finals Week. Because I must grade a significant number of projects and papers across multiple classes, I cannot let work trickle late over the course of Finals Week.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES ARE NOW LOCATED ON BLACKBOARD

You should familiarize yourselves with the University Policies located under the link by that name on Blackboard. ***You are responsible for all information in those policies.***