Native Americans Before the Era of Removal

University of Pennsylvania
History 610.302
Fall 2014
Tuesdays, 10:00–1:00
McNeil Center for Early American Studies
Seminar Room 105

Prof. Daniel K. Richter
Office Hours:
Mondays, 1:30–3:30,
Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00, or by appt.
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“Powhatan’s Mantle,” c. 1608

This seminar considers recent historiography, methods, and issues in North American indigenous history from the Mississippian Period (c. 1000 C.E.) to the eve of the U.S. Removal era of the 1830s, with a particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on the region east of the Mississippi River.

Buckle up! We will be reading a hefty list of recent monographs, along with a few oldies but goodies. Some of the books are not yet available in paperback, and, while it would be ideal if everyone could purchase each of them, the financial implications would be dire. No bookstore orders have been placed, on the assumption that some combination of internet purchases, library reading, and interlibrary loans will be the most economically viable option. All Common Readings have been placed on reserve at Rosengarten, and one or two copies of each are (or will be soon) on a dedicated shelf in the McNeil Center library. Articles from scholarly journals are available on-line through the Penn Library web site.

The lists of additional readings for each week’s topic are not exactly comprehensive, but they are expansive, with an eye toward providing a substantial reference bibliography. At least twice during the semester, each seminar member will choose a book from the list of “Additional Books” and prepare a brief précis of it, not exceeding 250 words. As dispassionately as possible, the précis should summarize the book’s thesis and the nature of the evidence used, and place the argument in conversation with the week’s Common Readings. Criticisms, positive or negative, should be confined to a sentence or so at the end. These papers should be submitted by email no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the week’s seminar meeting. They will be posted on Canvas for the immediate and future edification of the everyone and should be read by all before the week’s meeting.

Each seminar member is expected to lead at least one weekly discussion, with responsibility for posing a few questions designed to help the group explore themes from the week’s Common Readings and the additional books for which précis have been prepared. The common readings often sort themselves into two subtopics, so it may be useful to think in terms of a seminar session divided into two parts, before and after a break.
The themes from that discussion, the ensuing conversation, and a selection of additional books and articles chosen in consultation with the professor will provide the inspiration for a 5,000–6,000 word historiographical essay due at the end of the semester. This paper can go in any number of directions depending on individual intellectual goals. Whatever the case, plan on at least one round of substantive revisions, with final papers due before the beginning of the spring semester.

Alternatively, students may write an original research paper. Decisions on this option will need to be made very early in the semester, in close consultation with the instructor.

**Seminar Meeting and Reading Schedule**

**9 September: Introductions**

**16 September: Approaches**

*Common Reading:*

*Additional Books:*
Devon A. Mihesuah, *Natives and Academics: Researching and Writing about American Indians* (Lincoln” University of Nebraska Press, 1998).


**Useful Articles:**

- “Forum: Ethnogenesis,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 68 (2011), 181–246,

**23 September: Ancients**

**Common Reading:**

- Patricia Galloway, *Choctaw Genesis, 1500–1700* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999).

**Additional Books:**


30 September: Encounters

**Common Reading:**


**Additional Books:**


**Useful Articles:**
Calvin Martin, “The Four Lives of a Micmac Copper Pot,” *Ethnohistory* 22 (1975), 111–133.

**7 October: Ordeals**

**Common Reading:**

**Additional Books:**


*Useful Articles:*


14 October: Enslavements

**Common Reading:**


*and:*


*or:*


**Additional Books:**


**Useful Articles:**
David S. Jones, “Virgin Soils Revisited,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 60 (2003), 703–742.

**21 October: Conversions**

**Common Reading:**
and:
or:

**Additional Books:**
Useful Articles:


Glenda Goodman, “But they differ from us in sound”: Indian Psalmody and the Soundscape of Colonialism, 1651–75,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 69 (2012), 793–822.


28 October: Grounds

Common Reading:


Additional Book:

4 November: Woods

Common Reading:

Additional Books:

Useful Articles:
- Paul Kelton, “The British and Indian War: Cherokee Power and the Fate of Empire in North America,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 69 (2012), 763–792.
Common Reading:


Additional Books:

- Kathryn E. Holland Braund, *Deerskins and Duffels: Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685–1815* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993).

Useful Articles:


**18 November: Plains**

*Common Reading:*

*Additional Books:*

*Useful Articles:*

**25 November: Classlessnesses**

**2 December: Usonians**

*Common Reading:*

*Additional Books:*


**Useful Articles:**


9 December: Schools

*Common Reading:*

*Additional Books:*

*Useful Articles:*