Indigenous History of North America

HIST 4376 | MWF 12:20-1:15pm | Arts and Sciences 00258 | No Prerequisites

Professor: Dr. Tim Seiter | **Email:** TSeiter@UTTyler.edu | **Office**: CAS 130 | **Hours:** Appt.

This course surveys significant themes in Native American history from the Paleolithic era to the present, with an emphasis on first peoples in what is now known as Texas. Students will explore topics such as Indigenous dominance, first encounters, assimilation, and genocide. At the end of the semester, students will see how Native American history continues to affect our nation today. Additionally, students will learn how to acquire high-quality sources and will create their own histories on otherwise unknown Native historical actors.

Assignments

Reading Reports - 30%

- Answer questions about the assigned readings, submit your answers before class, and discuss the readings during class.
- Example: http://tinyurl.com/rz7tz49m.

Handbook of Texas Encyclopedia Entry - 30%

- Write a Native-centered Handbook of Texas encyclopedia entry that will be published online.
- Instructions: http://tinyurl.com/2s4fmz47

Grading Scale

A: > 89.4

B: 79.5 - 89.4

C: 69.5 - 79.4

D: 59.5 - 69.4

F: 59.4 or below

Lesson Plan on a Native American Myth - 20%

- Write a lesson plan that debunks a common misconception about Native Americans. This lesson plan should include a PowerPoint and lecture notes.
- Instructions: https://tinyurl.com/9ema6tts

Final Connection Exam - 20%

- Connect the class's major themes in a final essay that you can complete at home.
- Instructions: https://tinyurl.com/4f848ysz

Due dates for every assignment are labeled on the course calendar below.

Extra Credit

Inspiration: Students who show up promptly and regularly for class will have the opportunity to earn extra credit in a method based on the Dungeons & Dragons "inspiration" system. Each point of inspiration provides 1 point on your final grade. A maximum of *five* points can be earned.

Academic Events: A multitude of UT Tyler departments regularly host public lectures and events on campus. Students may receive up to *one* point on their final grade for doing the following: (1) Provide evidence that you attended the entire event. (2) Write an essay of at least 300 words that provides the lecture's primary argument(s), a summary of content, and a discussion of at least one way in which the presentation relates to a historical topic from our course. (3) Email me the essay within two weeks of the event.

Class Policies

AI: In rare cases, generative AI may be used with prior instructor permission and appropriate attribution. If permission is unobtained and AI usage is detected, then the assignment will receive a zero and the student will be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate "F" for the course.

Attendance: I will keep attendance, but I will not penalize you for missing class. However, the greater the number of classes you skip, the more difficult it will be to pass.

Late Work: All assignments received late (without an excused absence) will receive a 10-point deduction from the total grade for every 24-hour period they are late, beginning at the due date/time. Assignments received more than five days late (without excuse or communication with the professor) will receive a grade of "zero."

Readings

All of the required readings are freely available on Canvas and are outlined on the course schedule below.

Schedule

Date	Day of Week	Topic	Theme	Readings/Due Dates
1/13	Monday	**Class Introduction:** Expectations and Native Texas	Subjectivity	
1/15	Wednesday	**Discussion:** "History" vs. "history"	Subjectivity	
1/17	Friday	**Discussion:** The Power of History	Subjectivity	William Arens, *The Man-Eating Myth*
Week 2				
1/20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Origins	
1/22	Wednesday	**Lecture:** First Peoples in the Americas, Their Origin Stories, and Cahokia.	Origins	
1/24	Friday	**Lecture:** Atypical Sources and Oysters	Origins	Juliana Barr, "There's No Such Thing as 'Prehistory'"
Week 3				
1/27	Monday	**Lecture:** The Little Ice Age	Environment	
1/29	Wednesday	**Lecture:** The Native Geography of Texas	Environment	
1/31	Friday	**Discussion**: Shepard Krech, Ecological Indians and Pushback	Environment	Introduction to Shepard Krech's *The Ecological Indian* and Harkin and Lewis, *Native Americans and the Environment*
Week 4				
2/3	Monday	**Lecture:** The Columbian Exchange and Guns, Germs, and Steel Nuance.	First Encounters	
2/5	Wednesday	**Lecture:** First Contacts with Native Peoples in Texas	First Encounters	
2/7	Friday	**Lecture and Discussion:** Trade Networks and Foster's Historic Native Peoples	First Encounters	Foster, *Historic Native Peoples of Texas*
Week 5				
2/10	Monday	**Lecture:** Sieur de La Salle, Fort St. Louis, and the Spanish Settling of Texas	Indigeneity	
2/12	Wednesday	**Lecture:** Blood Quantum and the Story of Andrea Smith	Indigeneity	

2/14	Friday	**Discussion:** What Makes Someone Indigenous?	Indigeneity	Huntington and Franklin, "The Talon Brother's Interrogation"
Week 6				
2/17	Monday	**Lecture:** Presidio La Bahia	Native Dominance	
2/19	Wednesday	**Activity:** The Karankawa-Spanish War	Native Dominance	
2/21	Friday	**Discussion:** Comanche Empire	Native Dominance	*Comanche Empire* Roundtable
Week 7				
2/24	Monday	**Lecture:** Supposedly Extinct Karankawas	Mythmaking	
2/26	Wednesday	**Lecture:** Pocahontas	Mythmaking	
2/28	Friday	**Discuss:** Common Myths	Mythmaking	Native American Myth Lesson Plan Due at Midnight
Week 8				
3/3	Monday	**Watch:** Reel Injun	Portrayal	
3/5	Wednesday	**Watch:** Reel Injun	Portrayal	
3/7	Friday	**Discuss:** White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men	Portrayal	*White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men*
Week 9				
3/10	Monday	**Lecture:** A Common Enemy	Genocide	
3/12	Wednesday	**Lecture:** United Nations, Genocide, and Ethnocide	Genocide	
3/14	Friday	**Discussion:** An American Genocide	Genocide	Benjamin Madley, *An American Genocide* and Brendan Lindsay, *Murder State*
Week 10				
3/17	Monday	Spring Break	Rest & Relaxation	
3/19	Wednesday	Spring Break	Rest & Relaxation	
3/21	Friday	Spring Break	Rest & Relaxation	Nothing.
Week 11				
3/24	Monday	**Lecture:** Native American Boarding Schools	Resistance	
3/26	Wednesday	**Lecture:** The American Indian Movement	Resistance	David Mueller and Lynn Salt, *A Good Day to Die*
3/28	Friday	**Discussion:** The American Indian Movement	Resistance	David Mueller and Lynn Salt, *A Good Day to Die*

Week 12				
3/31	Monday	**Lecture:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA (Ishi's Brain)	Persistence	
4/2	Wednesday	**Lecture:** Sugarloaf Mountain and Preparation for Dakota Access Pipeline Debate	Persistence	
4/4	Friday	**Discussion:** Nick Estes, *Our History Is the Future*	Persistence	Nick Estes, *Our History Is the Future*
Week 13 (Encyclopedia Prep)				
4/7	Monday	**Lecture:** The Atakapa-Ishak. The Encyclopedia Project and Introduction to Source Location and Management	Research and Revitalization	
4/9	Wednesday	**Lecture:** Language revitalization. The Béxar Archives, Chicago Style, and TSHA Guidelines	Research and Revitalization	
4/11	Friday	**Discussion:** Indigenous Revitalization	Research and Revitalization	Chavana, "Reclaiming Tribal Identity in the Land of the Spirit Waters: The Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan Nation"
Week 14 (Encyclopedia Prep)				
4/14	Monday	**Activity and Discussion:** Native American Landscape in Texas during the 1700s	Research	
4/16	Wednesday	**Activity and Discussion:** Ten Sources and Writing Feedback	Research	
4/18	Friday	**Discussion:** Life in Spanish Texas	Research	Seiter, *Wrangling Pelicans*
Week 15 (Encyclopedia Prep)				
4/21	Monday	**Writing and Editing:** Encyclopedia Entry	Writing	
4/23	Wednesday	**Writing and Editing:** Encyclopedia Entry	Writing	
4/25	Friday	**Writing and Editing:** Encyclopedia Entry	Writing	TSHA Encyclopedia Entry Due at Midnight
Week 16				
4/28	Monday	No Class	Finals	
4/30	Wednesday	Final Exam and Final Day	Finals	Final Connection Exam Due at

		(12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m)		Midnight (15%)

Other Syllabus Statements

Academic Honesty (and Dishonesty): Violations of the UT Tyler Honor Code will be acted upon in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. Any act of academic dishonesty (plagiarism or cheating) will result in an immediate grade of zero on the assignment and be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate "F" for the course.

Disability Accommodations: Students who need academic accommodations for a disability must first register with the UT Tyler Office of Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR). Students can visit https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/disability-services/ to begin the process. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, but rather require advance notice in order to implement.

Sexual Harassment: All forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, are violations of UT Tyler's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and may also violate Texas law. Students who wish to file a complaint or to receive more information about the grievance process may contact Blake Bumbard, UT Tyler's Title IX Coordinator, at bbumbard@uttyler.edu or 903.565.5760. Please note that faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. If students notify faculty or staff of sexual harassment, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Medical-Related Absences: To ensure academic continuity and avoid any course penalties, students should follow procedures described by their instructors in order to be provided with appropriate modifications to assignments, deadlines, and exams.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled university extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments that were missed as a result of their participation. However, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for make-up work with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examinations or other missed assignments.

Mental Health Resources: On-Call and Ongoing Counseling Services: Throughout the academic year, students may encounter different stressors or go through life experiences that impact their mental health and academic performance. Students who are in distress or have concerns about their mental health can schedule a same-day or next-day appointment to speak with a counselor by calling Counseling Services. Counselors are available at any time, day or night for students in crisis at this number: 903.566.7254.

Additionally, for any kind of crisis, you can reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Crisis Text Line by calling or texting 988. You can also reach Trans Lifeline at 877.565.8860.