

HTST 593.18
Special Topics in History
Exchange, Trade and Cultural Encounter in North America
WED 1300-1600

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Fall 2009
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This seminar focuses upon the history of cross-cultural contact in North America from the late sixteenth through nineteenth centuries. It challenges students to examine what happened when the cultures, economies, trading institutions and views of New and Old World people mixed together in pre-colonial, colonial and pioneer periods. Students will also have an opportunity to examine the methodological challenges arising in “contact zones” where scholars try to understand sites of exchange, trade and cultural encounter in North American history. Broadly interdisciplinary, this seminar draws not only from history but schools of economic anthropology, archaeology, environmental history and historical geography. The seminar will also examine the limits of dependency, cultural survival and the theoretical cultural and economic characteristics of the “middle ground” established on the expanding commercial frontiers of New France, New York, Pennsylvania, Charleston, the Upper Missouri, Louisiana and in the far West.

Grading

Weekly Participation 20%

Weekly Reading Reports 35%: Two to 2.5 pages in length (no longer, please), the report will summarize the argument and main points of the Scrum readings and the Document reading from the jam session. Reports must be handed in at beginning of each session; they will not be accepted late.

Reading Scrum Leading 10%. The student will lead discussion around the first part of a week’s readings, having developed questions or points that will prompt the seminar students to think differently about the source.

Research Paper 35%, 15 pages in length, the research paper will reflect a term’s research into a specific topic in North American cultural encounter, trade or exchange, drawing on primary and secondary sources. Students should think early about collections of primary sources from which they can draw (e.g., Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, Papers of the American Fur Company, etc.) in case they will need to make interlibrary loan requests from the library. Students must submit a research paper proposal by SEPTEMBER 30.

Week 1: Sept 9: Introduction and seminar organization

Week 2: Sept 16: Contact, Early trade and exchange relations

Reading Scrum:

Neil Salisbury, "The Indians' Old World: Native Americans and the Coming of Europeans" *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser. 53(3), July 1996, 435-568.

Laurier Turgeon, "The Tale of the Kettle: Odyssey of an Intercultural Object," *Ethnohistory*, 44(1) Winter 1997, 1-29.

Jam Session: Romantic versus Relativist understandings of Early Contact:

Bruce Trigger, "Early Native North American Responses to Contact: romantic versus rationalistic interpretations," *Journal of American History*, 77(4), 1991, 1195-1215.

Week 3: Sept 23, The Development of a Middle Ground in Encounters in New France and the Pays-d'en-haut

Reading Scrum:

Richard White, Chapter 2 "The Middle Ground," from *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp.94-141.

Heidi Bohaker, "Nindoodemag: The Significance of Algonquian Kinship Networks in the Eastern Great Lakes Region, 1600-1701," *William and Mary Quarterly* (63(1) 2006, pp. 23-53.

Jam Session: Balanced and Negative Reciprocity in early North American Exchange
Marshall D. Sahlins, "On the Sociology of Primitive Exchange," *The Relevance of Models for Social Anthropology* (A.S.A. Monographs 1, London: Tavistock Publications, 1965), pp. 139-236.

Discussion: Henry Fleet Journal, "A Voyage Made in the Bark Virginia, to Virginia and Other Parts of the Continent of America" 1664.

Week 4: Sept 30, the Southern Fur Trade: Frontiers of Violence, Borderlands of Misunderstandings

Reading Scrum:

William L. Ramsey, "'Something Cloudy in their Looks': the Origins of the Yamasee War Reconsidered," *The Journal of American History* 90(1), June 2003, pp. 44-75.

Available through the following link:

<http://www.historycooperative.org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/journals/jah/90.1/ramsey.html>

Daniel Usner, "French-Natchez Borderlands in Colonial Louisiana," in Daniel Usner Jr., ed., *American Indians in the Lower Mississippi Valley: Social and Economic Histories*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998) pp. 15-33.

Optional Extra Reading: Daniel Usner, Chapter 1, "Trade and settlement in the formation of a colonial region," *Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley before 1783* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992), pp. 13-43.

Jam Session: Stuart Plattner, "Introduction" to *Economic Anthropology* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1989), pp.1-17

Discussion: excerpt, Gabriel Sagard, *Journey to the Huron Country*, pp. 44-47.

Note: Term Paper Proposals Due: The proposal will comprise an overview of the topic, the key question that will be asked, and bibliography. Most paper proposals run 2 pages in length.

Week 5: October 7: Sexual Exchange: Women and Men in Cultural Encounter

Reading Scrum:

Alice Kehoe, "The Function of Ceremonial Sexual Intercourse among the Northern Plains Indians," *Plains Anthropologist*, 15 (48) 1970, 99-103.

Albert Hurtado, "When Strangers Met: Sex and Gender on Three Frontiers," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 1996(17)3, pp. 52-75.

Katherine Weist, "Beasts of Burden and Menial Slaves: Nineteenth Century Observations of Northern Plains Indian Women," in *The Hidden Half: Studies of Plains Indian Women*, ed. Patricia Albers and Beatrice Medicine (Lanham, MD, 1983), 29-52.

Jam Session:

(optional) William R. Swagerty, "Marriage and Settlement Patterns of Rocky Mountain Trappers and Traders," *Western Historical Quarterly* 11 (April 1980), 159-80.

Document discussion: Fort Sarpy Journal, January 1855

Week 6: October 14: Trades Made across the Line: Captives, Slaves and Adoptees

Reading Scrum:

James F. Brooks, "Violence, Exchange, and the Honor of Men," in *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002)

Brett Rushforth, "Slavery, the Fox Wars, and the limits of Alliance," *William and Mary Quarterly* 63(1) 2006, pp. 53-80.

Jam Session:

John D. Speth, "Some Unexplored Aspects of Mutualistic Plains-Pueblo Food Exchange," in Katherine A. Spielman, ed., *Farmers, Hunters and Colonists: Interaction Between the Southwest and the Southern Plains* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1991)

Tabeau's Narrative on "Nations of the Upper Missouri,"

Week 7: October 21, Cultures Interacting, Cultural Ethnogenesis

Reading Scrum:

Susan Sleeper-Smith, "Women, Kin and Catholicism: New Perspectives on the Fur Trade," *Ethnohistory* 47 (2) Spring 2000, pp. 423-452.

John E. Foster, "Wintering, the Outsider adult Male and the Ethnogenesis of the Western Plains Metis," from Theodore Binnema, Gerhard J. Ens and R.C. Macleod, eds., *From Rupert's Land to Canada: Essays in Honour of John E. Foster*, (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2001), pp 161-178.

Jam Session

Germaine Walkentin, ed., "George Nelson Encounters, 'The Dreamed'", in *Canadian Exploration Literature*

Jennifer S.H. Brown and Robert Brightman, "*The Orders of the Dreamed*": *George Nelson on Cree and Northern Ojibwa Religion and Myth*" (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press 1988)

Week 8: Oct 28: Theatres of Contact on the Pacific

Reading Scrum:

Robin Fisher, "Contact and Trade, 1774-1849," Hugh J.M. Johnston, ed., *The Pacific Province: A History of British Columbia* (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1996), pp. 48-67

John Sutton Lutz, "The Lekwungen," in *Makúk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations* (UBC Press, 2008).

Jam Session: Oral History from points of Contact:

Keith Thor Carlson, "Reflections on Indigenous History and Memory: Reconstructing and Reconsidering Contact," in John Sutton Lutz, ed., *Myth and Memory: Stories of Indigenous-European Contact* (UBC Press, 2007).

Week 9: Nov 4, The Race to the Plains

Reading Scrum:

W. Raymond Wood and Thomas D. Thiessen Introduction, "The Canadian-Missouri River Fur Trade," *Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985) pp. 3-17.

Barton H. Barbour, *Fort Union and the Upper Missouri Fur Trade* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001), 5-37.

Jam Session:

Discussion: Edwin Denig, "Speech of Le Chef du Tonnerre to the Gentleman in Charge of Fort Union, January 1850," and Assiniboine Picture Writing

Week 10: No Class, Remembrance Day

Week 11: Nov 18, Power and Impoverishment in Material Exchange: the Cases of the Horse, Gun and Alcohol

Reading Scrum:

Theodore Binnema, *Common and Contested Ground: A Human and Environmental History of the Northwestern Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001) Chapter 5, "The Horse and Gun Revolution, 1700-1770" pp. 86-106'

Brian J. Given, *A Most Pernicious Thing: Gun Trading and Native Warfare in the Early Contact Period* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1994)

Jam Session:

Peter C. Mancall, "Men, Women, and Alcohol in Indian Villages in the Great Lakes Region in the Early Republic," *Journal of the Early Republic* 1995 15(3): 425-448.

Discussion: Booze at Brandon House: MacKay's Journal 1794

Week 12: November 25, Tourism and the Encounter with the Exotic

Reading Scrum:

Paige Raibmon, "The Inside Passage to Authenticity: Sitka tourism and the Tlinget," *Authentic Indians: Episodes of Encounter from the Late-Nineteenth-Century Northwest Coast* (UBC Press 2005).

Ruth B. Phillips, "Souvenir, Commodity, and Art in the northeastern Woodlands," in *Trading Identities: The Souvenir in Native North American Art from the Northeast, 1700-1900* (Seattle: university of Washington Press, 1998)

Jam Session

Stephen C. Jett, "Culture and Tourism in the Navajo Country," *Journal of Cultural Geography* Fall/Winter 1990, Vol 11 (1), pp. 85-108.

Week 13: December 2, Discussion around Student Essays and Relating them to Seminar Themes

Emergency Management Program

As part of the University's Emergency Management Program primary and alternative assembly points have been identified for this course in the case of an emergency requiring evacuation. The **primary assembly point** is the **Professional Faculties Food Court**. The **Education Block Food Court** has been identified as an **alternative point**. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements.

Reserve Reading

Anderson, Gary Clayton, *Kinsmen of another kind: Dakota-White Relations in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1650-1862* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1984) F 99 D1A522 1984

Binnema, Theodore, *Common and Contested Ground: A Human and Environmental History of the Northwestern Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001) E 78 G 73 B 516 2001.

Innis, Harold, *The Fur Trade in Canada: An Introduction to Canadian Economic History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1970) HD 9944 C22 I59 1970.

Krech III, Shepard, *The Subarctic fur trade : native social and economic adaptations* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1984). E98 .C7 S92 1984

Payne, Michael, *The Most Respectable Place in the Territory: Everyday Life in Hudson's Bay Company Service, York Factory, 1788-1870* (Ottawa: Parks Service, 1996) FC 3207 P39 1996.

Phillips, Paul Chrisler, *The Fur Trade* 2 Vols. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. HD 9944 A2 P4 V 1 and V2.

Ray, A.J. and Freeman, Donald, *"Give us good measure": an economic analysis of relations between the Indians and the Hudson's Bay Company before 1763* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978)

Ray, Arthur J. and Carol M. Judd, eds., *Old Trails and New Directions: Papers of the Third North American Fur Trade Conference* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980).

Ray, Arthur J., *Indians in the Fur Trade : Their role as trappers, hunters, and middlemen in the lands southwest of Hudson Bay, 1660-1870* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998) E78 .C2 R39 1998.

Sleeper-Smith, Susan, *Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001).

Trelease, Allen W, *Indian Affairs in Colonial New York: The Seventeenth Century* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1997) E 78 N7 T72 1997

Yerbury, John Collin, *The Subarctic Indians and the fur trade, 1680-1860* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1986) E99 .A86 Y345 1986

White, Richard, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge University Press, 1991) E 99 A 35 W 48 1991.

Wishart, David, *The fur trade of the American West, 1807-40: a geographical synthesis* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1979) F592 .W56 1979

Wood, W. Raymond and Thomas D. Thiessen, *Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985) E 99 M2 E35 1985.