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Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

History 368: The Native Aspect of Canada's History before 1830

Instructor: Dr. Duff Crerar

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Introduction:

This course explores the experience of native peoples in Canada's history from first European contact to the generation of the 1830's. Through lectures, case studies and discussion of selected readings, the class examines and evaluates the interaction between European and native peoples during the colonial period in the light of the policies, interests and objectives of both native and newcomer groups. The course places special emphasis on Indian involvement in the fur trade, the development of European imperial and "civilizing" policies and the first attempts of native peoples to direct their destiny in the face of European incursion. Besides a mid-term test and the final examination, students will write one brief critical essay and one longer research paper on a topic of their choice.

Textbooks:

Trigger, Bruce. Natives and Newcomers: Canada's Heroic Age Reconsidered. McGill-Queen's, 1976.

Fisher, R.A. and Coates, K. Out of the Background: Readings on Canadian Native History. Toronto: Copp Clark Pitman, 1988.

Getty, I.A. and Lussier, A.S. As Long as the Sun Shines and Water Flows: A Reader in Canadian Native Studies. Vancouver: U.B.C. Press, 1979.

NBB: Highly Recommended:

Harris, R. Cole and Matthews, Geoffrey, Historical Atlas of Canada, Vol. 1: From the Beginning to 1800). Toronto: U. of T. Press, 1987.

Course Outline:

Week One: Beginnings

- Wed. - Introduction: Earliest Native Peoples  
SOURCE: Historical Atlas of Canada, Vol. 1,  
plates 1-2, 4-6 and A. McMillan, Native Peoples  
and Cultures of Canada, pp. 19-30.
- Fri. - Ethnohistory: Straight Thinking and Crooked Ideas  
READINGS:  
- Bruce Trigger, in Fisher and Coates,  
Out of the Background, pp. 19-44.  
- Trigger, Natives, Chapter 1.

Week Two : Prehistory

- Mon. The Eastern Woodlands and Maritimes  
READ: Trigger, Natives, Chapter 2; ALSO  
Historical Atlas of Canada, Vol. 1, plates  
7-9, 12, 14, 18.  
OPTIONAL: A. McMillan, Native Peoples and  
Cultures of Canada, pp. 31-48, 87-108 (RESERVE)
- Wed. The Prairies  
READ: McMillan, pp. 114-143, 212-230 AND  
Dickason, "A Reconstruction for the Northwestern  
Plains", Prairie Forum, V, # 1, 1981, pp. 19-37  
(RESERVE)  
ALSO: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 7-10,  
14-15, 18.
- Fri. The Mountains and Pacific Coast  
READ: McMillan, pp. 148-166, 170-204, ALSO:  
Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 7-9, 13-15,  
18.

Week Three: First Contacts

- Mon. Northern Peoples  
READ: 239-267 and Historical Atlas, Vol. 1,  
plates 9, 11, 14-15, 18.
- Wed. Earliest Encounters  
READ: McGhee, Native Peoples of Atlantic Canada  
Chapter 1 and Magnusson, Norse Discovery of  
America pp. 59-61, 65-67 (photocopy) (RESERVE), also P.  
Schledermann, in National Geographic, May, 1981,  
pp. 574-601 (PERIODICALS), also Fitzhugh, in William  
Fitzhugh, Cultures in Contact, pp. 19-43. (RESERVE)  
CONSULT: Barkham, in Canadian Geographic  
Journal, Feb/March, 1978, pp. 1-15 (RESERVE).  
CONSULT: Historical Atlas of Canada, Vol. 1,  
plates 16, 22.

- Fri. Cartier and his hosts  
 READ: Trigger, Chapter 3 and Historical Atlas,  
 Vol. 1, plate 22.
- Week Four : Huronia and Quebec
- Mon. Champlain and his legacy  
 READ: Trigger, Chapter 4
- Wed. Trade and Alliance  
 READ: Trigger, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 88-101 AND  
 Trigger, Chapter 6.
- Fri. Missions  
 READ: Jaenen, Friend and Foe, Chapter 2  
 (RESERVE) and in Canadian Issues: Religion,  
 pp. 182-197 (RESERVE), Also J.W. Grant,  
Moon of Wintertime, pp. 3-25. (RESERVE)
- Week Five : War, Trade and Empire
- Mon. Huronia Divided  
 READ: Jaenen, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 102-133.  
 AND Trigger, Chapter 5, pp. 226-259, Also  
 CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate 34.
- Wed. Huronia Destroyed  
 READ: Trigger, Chapter 5, pp. 259-297 and  
Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate 35.
- Fri. The French-Iroquois Dynamic  
 READ: Francis Jennings, The Ambiguous Iroquois  
 Empire, Chaps. 9-10 (RESERVE).  
 CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 37-38.
- Week Six : France and Native Policy
- Mon. (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- Wed. Cultural Conflicts and Colonial Policy  
 READ: Jaenen, Chapters 3 and 5 AND Jaenen, "French  
 Sovereignty and Native Nationhood During the French  
 Regime", Native Studies Review, 2, # 1, 1986,  
 pp. 83-113 (RESERVE)  
 Also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate  
 47.
- Fri. Mid-Term Test
- Week Seven: Canadian Native Peoples in British North America
- Mon. New France and the Micmacs  
 READ: Upton, Micmacs and Colonists, Chapters 3-5  
 (RESERVE)

- Wed. Seven Years of War and the Royal Proclamation  
 READ: R.S. Allen, "The British Indian Department" in Canadian Historic Sites, # 14, pp. 7-22.  
 (RESERVE) Also Getty and Lussier, pp. 29-37.  
 Also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 40-42.
- Fri. Case Study: Pontiac's Rebellion  
 READ: DCB, Vol. III, pp. 525-531, Also Vol. IV, pp. 408-410 (REFERENCE)  
 Also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate 44.
- Week Eight: A New Alliance
- Mon. Warriors Betrayed?: 1776-1815  
 READ: R.S. Allen, "The British Indian Department", pp. 22-46, 67-92 (RESERVE)  
 Also CONSULT: Stanley, "The Indians in the War of 1812", CHR, June, 1950, pp. 145-165 (RESERVE)
- Wed. Case Study: The Brants and Tecumseh  
 READ: DCB, Vol. IV, pp. 416-419, also Vol. V, pp. 795-801 and 803-812 REFERENCE
- Fri. British Colonizers and the Micmacs  
 READ: Upton, Micmacs and Colonists, pp. 81-181 (RESERVE)
- Week Nine : Paternalism
- Mon. British Missions and the Canadas  
 READ: Barron, in Getty and Lussier, pp. 191-202 and Grant, Moon of Wintertime, Chapter 4, (RESERVE)
- Wed. Case Study: Conversion or Renewal?  
 READ: DCB, Vol. VIII, pp. 439-443 REFERENCE  
 also Antony Wallace, The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca, (RESERVE)  
 CONSULT: D.B. Smith, Sacred Feathers, pp. 1-65 (RESERVE).
- Fri. The First British Reserves  
 READ: Surtees, in Getty and Lussier, pp. 65-84  
 McNab, in Getty and Lussier, pp. 85-103.
- Week Ten : Co-operation in the Western Fur Trade
- Mon. Trade with the Bay  
 READ: Ray, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 134-149; and Ray "Fur Trade History as an Aspect of Native History", in One Century Later, pp. 7-19 (RESERVE); also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, plates 57, 59-62.

- Wed. Native-Trader Relations in the Interior  
 READ: Sloan, in CHR, LX, Sept, '79, pp. 281-299  
 Also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate 61-62.
- Fri. Case Study: Native Women in the Fur Trade  
 READ: Van Kirk, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 150-166 and Jennifer Brown, Strangers in Blood, Chapters 3 and 4 (RESERVE)
- Week Eleven: The New Peoples and the Plains
- Mon. Strangers in Blood  
 READ: Brown, Strangers, pp. 123-152, 199-220, and Van Kirk, in Brown and Peterson, New Peoples, pp. 207-217. RESERVE
- Wed. Red River and the New Nation  
 READ: Stanley, Birth of Western Canada, Chapter 1 (RESERVE), also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 64-65.
- Fri. Prairie Contacts: Cree and Blackfoot  
 READ: Dempsey, in Native Peoples; The Canadian Experience, pp. 404 - 435 (RESERVE) AND SURVEY John S. Milloy, The Plains Cree, pp. 1-82.  
 CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plate 57.
- Week Twelve: The West Coast
- Mon. Contact and Co-operation by Sea  
 READ: Robin Fisher, Contact and Conflict, pp. 1-23 (RESERVE) Also CONSULT: Historical Atlas, Vol. 1, plates 66, 69.
- Wed. The Land Contact  
 READ: Fisher, pp. 24-48. (RESERVE).
- Fri. The Transition to Coercion  
 READ: Fisher, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 167-189 and Fisher, Contact and Conflict, pp. 48-72 (RESERVE).
- Week Thirteen: Controversy
- Mon. Northern Approaches  
 READ: McMillan, pp. 251-267 AND Kaplan in Fitzhugh, Cultures in Contact, pp. 45-69; also Taylor, "Moravian Influence on Labrador Inuit", in Approaches to Native History in Canada, pp. 16-29 (RESERVE).

Wed. Extinction

READ: Upton, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 45-65

Fri. Native Peoples and Ecology

READ: Martin, in Fisher and Coates, pp. 66-87 AND  
S. Krech, Indians, Animals and the Fur  
Trade, tba

Week Fourteen: Assessment

Mon. Co-operation

READ: J.R. Miller, Skyscrapers Hide the  
Heavens, pp. 98-115 (RESERVE)

Wed. Coercion

READ: Leslie, in Canadian Historical Association,  
Historical Papers, 1982, pp. 31-52 and Tobias,  
in Getty and Lussier, pp. 39-55

Fri. The Struggle for Agency

READ: Stanley, in Getty and Lussier, pp. 1-26

Final Exam

### Course Format and Philosophy:

The course consists of short lectures, discussions and student debates, based on the readings for each class. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week and also serve as guides to text readings, relating them to the course themes. Tests will be short answer in nature, while the final examination will consist of both short answer and essay type questions. All essay topics will be discussed and cleared with me before final submission. An attendance and participation mark will be given, based on consistent class attendance and taking part in the class discussions or simulations. Late assignments will be penalized 10% each day overdue, UNLESS you have spoken with me in advance. Any students having trouble with their assignments or the course are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible -- after class, by contacting me in the office or calling me at home (between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m., if possible!) at 539-7764. I am always willing to help in any way I can.

### Marking Scheme:

|                              |                |     |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Short Essay                  | (eight pages)  | 15  |
| Mid-term Test                | (in class)     | 20  |
| Research Essay               | (twelve pages) | 25  |
| Attendance and Participation |                | 10  |
| Final Examination            |                | 30  |
| -----                        |                |     |
|                              |                | 100 |