McGill University

HIST 580D1/D2
European and Native-American Encounters

2012-13
Wed 3:30-5:30

Instructor: Allan Greer
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Office Hours: Mon 2:30-4:30 or by appt.

Course Description and Format:
The seminar consider Native-European interaction from several perspectives, focusing mainly on North America from the 16th to the early 19th century. Several sessions revolve around the theme of “Natives, Settlers and Land”: dispossession, settler property formation, notions of space and place. We consider materials covering the Spanish, the English and the French zones of colonization, from Mexico to the Arctic.

This is a two-term seminar, the fall term being devoted primarily to reading and discussion of literature on a series of interrelated topics, while the winter term will revolve around student research projects. By December and in consultation with the instructor, each of you will choose a topic for research connected to the course theme. Towards the end of the year, you will prepare a paper for presentation to the seminar.

Books:
Seven books will be used extensively and, for your convenience, these are on reserve at McLennan Library; also, copies can be purchased at Librairie Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 McGill College Ave. (514-845-5811):

**Reading Log:**
Every student will maintain a reading log, to be updated on a weekly basis and transmitted to me electronically one hour before the seminar meets. This is simply a list of what you have read on the topic of the week, with an indication as to which works were skimmed and which were read closely. Identify at least one point suitable for seminar discussion. Email updated log to me by 2:30 Wednesday.

**Source Exploration:**
Your assignment is to explore a primary source chosen from the list at the back of the syllabus. “Explore” means to scan, read and generally familiarize yourself with the text, image or collection of material, considering its potential as a source for historical research. Think in terms of opening up inquiries rather than drawing conclusions: questions rather than answers. Concentrate on the passages that make you scratch your head and wonder what the point is, rather than the ones that seem to address familiar “textbook history” issues.

On this basis, prepare a brief written report (approx 1000 words) on the source in general and, if it happens to be a long text, on an illustrative excerpt. You will also make an oral presentation of your findings to the seminar Nov 7 or 14. (Paper due at that time.) If practical, bring along copies of your illustrative excerpt or post it on the course website.

Students are usually directed to write integrated, coherent essays that argue a definite point, but in this exercise you should do something quite different: feel free to muse, describe, zero in on details, and move from topic to topic.

**Research Project:**
Each of you will undertake a research project in the winter term. The end result will be a paper, but there will be several steps along the way.

- **Research Proposal and Bibliography.** This paper should identify a topic for subsequent research; it should also survey the relevant secondary literature, providing an intellectual context for the inquiry; additionally, the proposal should discuss the sources that will be examined; finally, attach a bibliography listing secondary works and primary materials relating to the topic.
  Length: 15 pages Due: Jan 14

- **Research paper.** This is not a “first draft,” but rather a finished, professionally presented seminar paper. Please email paper to instructor for posting on the course website.
  Length: approx. 25 pages Due: Mar 22

- **Revised paper.** After benefiting from discussion and comments of instructor and classmates, you will revise your paper and resubmit.
  Length: approx. 25 pages Due: Apr 17
Evaluation:
- Participation: 30%  This grade component is based on your reading log, attendance and participation in seminar discussions.
- Source Study: 15%
- Research Proposal and bibliography: 15%
- Research Paper: 35%
- Revisions to research paper: 5%

Fall Term Topics:
Items marked with an asterisk* are available on the course website. Such works are subject to copyright and made available to students registered in HIST580 on a “fair dealing” basis. That means that you can read them onscreen or print them out for your own use, but you cannot reproduce these materials for any other purpose.

(r) = on reserve, McLennan Library

Sept 5  Introduction

Sept 12  First Contacts


Sept 19 **Violence and War**


Sept 26 **The Land: Environment**


Melville, Elinor G. K. *A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest*


Oct 3 Place and Space


Oct 10  **The Land: Property**


Oct 17  **Language**


A Jesuit native-language document: TBA

**Oct 24**

**Law**


Grabowski, Jan. “French Criminal Justice and Indians in Montreal, 1670-1760.” 
*Ethnohistory* 43 (Summer 1996): 405-29.

Oct 31 **Religion**


Ruiz de Montoya, Antonio. *The spiritual conquest accomplished by the religious of the Society of Jesus in the provinces of...* St. Louis, Mo.: Institute of Jesuit Sources, 1993.


Nov 7 **Source Study Presentation**

Nov 14 **Source Study Presentation (cont)**

Nov 21 **Slavery**


Nov 28  No class. Individual Consultations on Research Projects

Jan 9  No class. Submit research proposal no later than Jan 14.

Jan 16  Discussion of Research Proposals

Jan 23  Discussion of Research Proposals

Jan 30  Ethnogenesis


Peterson, Jacqueline and Brown, Jennifer, ed. The New People: Being and Becoming Métis in North America (Winnipeg, 1985), 3-118


Feb 6  **In Search of Indigenous History**


Feb 13 – Mar 20  **No classes.** This period has been cleared of reading assignments and classes to allow you to devote yourself to research. However, you are encouraged to consult with me as needed.

Mar 22  Research paper due.

Mar 27  **Discussion of research papers**

Apr 3  **Cont.**

Apr 10  **Cont.**

Apr 17  Revised paper due


Cempoala, 1580, Relaciones Geográficas collection: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/rg/cempoala.jpg

Codex Reese, ca. 1565 http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/dl_crosscollex/brbldl/oneITEM.asp?pid=2002363&iid=1007084&srchtype=


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