HST 2500: Native Americans and the United States, 1600s-Present

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course will explore the history of American Indians' relations with Anglo Americans, dating from the 1600s to the present, in the region now covering the United States. In doing so, it will ask students to consider how this history shaped American society as a whole. This course will focus on the issues of contact, trade, Native opposition to colonization, intercultural understanding and misunderstanding, and assimilation. It will also analyze the effects of the US government's policies confronting Native Americans, as well as how Native people creatively resisted, accommodated, and adapted to their changing realities in order to preserve their autonomy and cultural identities. Students will study the causes and effects of the French and Indian War, the creation of pan-tribal alliances, the Indian Removal Act, boarding schools and allotment, the Red Power Movement, and other events that shaped Native American history. Given the tremendous diversity of Native experiences and cultures, this course will both focus on and differentiate the histories of selected groups, including the Iroquois, Shawnee, Cherokee, and Sioux. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/06/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to Ethnohistory
2. Precontact American Indian Society and Culture
3. Contact and the Great Smallpox Epidemic
4. The Spanish Southeast and Southwest: The Pueblo Revolt of 1680
5. New France: The Beaver Trade and the Middle Ground
6. The Chesapeake: Jamestown, the Powhatan Wars, and Anglo-American Mythmaking
7. New England: Puritanism, Metacomet's War, and Memory
8. The Beaver Wars, The Iroquois League, and the Imperial Playoff System
9. The French and Indian War
10. Wars for Independence
11. The Northwest Confederacies and the Treaty of Greenville
12. Tecumseh and the War of 1812
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. recognize and examine the key people, events, and themes of Native American history. Students will interpret how and why Native American history shaped the United States as a whole.

2. refine their critical thinking, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will read several hundred pages of text, analyze and evaluate these readings, and present their interpretations in writing and discussion.

3. develop sound historical arguments. Students will both investigate primary sources and debate historians’ clashing views on history in order to practice the skills that historians use to interpret the past.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.

2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.

3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.

4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted