

American Indian History: Recasting the Narrative

Professor Ned Blackhawk
Yale University

Course Description

This course will introduce and explore the complexities of American Indian history, a field of study ignored for generations. Indigenous peoples have fundamentally shaped and defined the modern world. From the founding of the first European settlements in North America to continuing debates over the meanings of American democracy, Indian history remains integral to understanding of US history and culture. Through a series of engaging lectures, students will be introduced to stories that elucidate the persecution and perseverance of American Indians.

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Blackhawk, split into 30 lecture videos ranging from 10 minutes to 30 minutes in duration. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor Blackhawk. The videos provide the content needed to answer the quiz questions.

1. "American Indians and the Re-Making of US History: The Spanish Borderlands and Columbian Exchange" (2 videos)
2. "The Iroquois Confederacy and the French, Dutch, and English Empires" (2 videos)
3. "The Eighteenth Century and the Seven Years' War" (2 videos)
4. "Native Peoples, the Revolutionary Republic, and the US Constitution" (3 videos)
5. "The Native American West before Lewis and Clark" (2 videos)
6. "Indian Removal: Competing Visions of Community in the Antebellum Era" (2 videos)
7. "The Growing Power of the US State: Indians during the Civil War Era" (3 videos)
8. "The Indigenous West and the Pacific World of Mark Twain" (3 videos)

9. "The Assimilation Era: Reservations, Boarding Schools, and Allotment" (3 videos)
10. "Twentieth-Century Native American Activism, Intellectual Production, and Reform" (2 videos)
11. "World War II and After: Termination, Indian Activism, and Cold War America" (4 videos)
12. "The Rise of Self-Determination: The Expansion of Tribal Sovereignty in Contemporary Native North America" (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute's online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the video, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After finishing your course by watching all of the lectures, scoring 80% or higher on each quiz, and completing the History U Course Feedback Survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.