This course examines the history of indigenous North Americans from the period immediately preceding the arrival of Europeans in America to the close of the nineteenth century. The course does not simply describe Anglo-American attitudes and beliefs about Natives, nor does it focus primarily on U.S. Indian policies. Rather, the course attempts to illuminate the various viewpoints from which both Indians and whites perceived their historical relations. Particular attention is given to Native beliefs and values, social and cultural ideologies, and cultural change prompted by contact with whites. The course’s broadest goal is to provide a general knowledge of the Native American experience in the United States. In addition, it strives to reach a number of more specific goals. First, the course seeks to explain the various strategies that Indians followed in responding to the European conquest of America and the eventual establishment of Anglo-American social dominance. To this end the class will examine forms of Indian resistance, and aspects of Indian cultural continuity and change. Second, the class demonstrates that Indian history is not peripheral, but rather is central, to U.S. history. Finally, the course argues that neither Indians nor indigenous cultures are “disappearing.”

**Course Requirements:** You will be responsible for three 5-7 page papers during the quarter.

**Grading:** The first two papers will each count for 30% of your grade, and the final paper will count for the remaining 40% of your grade.

**Required Books:**

Daniel Richter, *Facing East From Indian Country*

Howard Harrod, *Becoming and Remaining a People: Native American Religions on the Northern Plains*

Colin Galloway, *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of American Indian History*

Course Reader

**Readings and Lectures:**

**Week 1 – Native Cultures and Economies on the Eve of Contact**

Reading: Red Earth White Lies-Introduction, Chap. 1-2, First Peoples-Chap. 1

Lectures: Monday-Native Prehistory: Western Perceptions and Beliefs

Wednesday-Native Origin Accounts

Friday-Pre-contact economics, societies, and cultures

**Week 2 – Early Contacts between Europeans and Native Americans-Spain, France, and England: East Coast, Gulf Coast, and California**

Reading: Facing East From Indian Country-Prologue, Chap. 1-2, Reader: Selections from *Indians and English, Cultivating a Landscape of Peace, Choctaw Genesis*

Lectures: Monday-Spanish relations with Southeastern Indians

Wednesday-Early 17th century Epidemics and the Native Reaction to the colonization of the Chesapeake and New England

Friday-California Indians and Spain
Week 3 – 17th and 18th century Native-Euro-American relations in Virginia, New England, Ohio Valley, and Canada
Reading: Facing East From Indian Country-Chap. 3-4, The Middle Ground-Chap. 2-3
Lectures: Monday-Indians, Africans and Slavery
Wednesday-Indians and Christians: Praying Towns, Jesuits, and Acculturation
Friday-The Fur Trade

Week 4 – Native Responses to European Empire Building
Reading: Facing East From Indian Country-Chap.5-6, The Middle Ground-Chap. 4,6,8, Reader-Selection from Elusive Empires.
Lectures: Monday-Socio-Cultural Change in Indian Country
Wednesday-Native/European Alliances
Friday-The Seven Years’ War

Week 5 – Indigenous Relations with the United States during the Revolutionary Era
Reading: First Peoples-Chap. 3, Reader-Selections from The Revolution in Indian Country, Dividing Paths.
Lectures: Monday-Indian Preachers and Attempts at Neutrality
Wednesday-Iroquois/British Alliance
Friday-The Revolutionary War in Indian Country: South Carolina and The Cherokee

Week 6 – Indians and Jeffersonian Assimilation
Readings: First Peoples-Chap. 4, Reader-Selections from Cherokees and Missionaries, From Revivals to Removal
Lectures: Monday-U.S. Indian Policy in the Early Republic
Wednesday-Native relations with Missionaries in Indian Country
Friday-Who Could be an American?: Racial Logic and Assimilation

Week 7 – “Civilization,” Removal, and Westward Expansion
Reading: Reader-Fathers and Children, The Legal Ideology of Removal, The New Order of Things
Lectures: Monday-New England Indians and the Experiment at Brotherton
Wednesday-The Ideology and Economics Behind Removal and Expansion
Friday-5 Civilized Tribes: Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole: Native positions for and against Removal

Week 8 – Native Strategies towards U.S. Expansion 1800-1850: Accommodation, Resistance, and Cultural Continuity
Reading: Reader-Wallace Article, Selections from A Spirited Resistance, The Land of the Dead
Lectures: Monday-Indian Strategies: Nativism, Religion, and Indian Alliances
Wednesday-The Midewiwin as Resistance and Cultural Continuity
Friday-A New Life in Indian Country: Cultural and Racial Logic of the Cherokees and Choctaws in Oklahoma

Week 9 – Native Strategies towards U.S. Expansion 1850-1890
Reading: First Peoples-Chap. 5
Lectures: Monday-U.S. Indian Policy: Containment, Reservations, and Grant’s Peace Policy
Wednesday-Indians at School: Native Responses to the Boarding School

Week 10 – Indigenous Responses to Life during the Reservation Period
Reading: Reader-Selections from Silver Horn, The Ghost Dance
Lectures: Monday-The Dawes Act of 1887, Darwinism and Social Evolution
Wednesday-Religion and Art: The Sun Dance, The Ghost Dance, Peyote, Teepee Paintings, and Ledger Art
Friday-The End of Indian Military Resistance and Concluding Remarks