HIST 469/569
American Indian History: Topic: Plains Indians
Winter 2010
Instructor: Jeff Ostler
Class Hours:  MW, 4:00-5:20
Office Hours:  2:00-3:00 W
              11:00-12:00 R
              or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of the Native peoples of the Great Plains region of the United States. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the diversity of Plains Indian communities, their ways of life (including modes of production, social organization and values, worldview, and religious and cultural practices), their relationship to the land, the larger structures that affected their lives, the strategies they pursued over the past two hundred years of their history, and some of the debates about their history. In analyzing Plains Indian history, I will emphasize (1) that Native communities pursued different strategies and that various strategies all had a logic, and (2) that Native communities exercised agency but often under significant constraints.

Readings:

The following required readings are available for purchase in the Duck Shop, formerly known at the University of Oregon Bookstore, and are also on reserve.

John G. Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks
Mary Crow Dog, Lakota Woman

There are also several required articles and excerpts from books (list appended) available under “course documents” on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

1. Three papers analyzing and reflecting on a particular issue covered in different periods of the course. Each paper should be about four pages in length.

   The first paper will be due on January 27 and will cover material in the first three weeks of class.

   The second paper will be due on February 22 and will cover material in weeks four through seven.
The third paper will be due at the time of the final exam (March 16, 3:15) and will cover material in the last three weeks of class.
Each paper will be worth 20% of your grade.

2. Two quizzes to be given in class, one on February 8, the other on March 10. These quizzes will each be worth 10% of your grade.

3. A final exam to be given on Tuesday, March 16, at 3:15. I will give you essay questions in advance and ask you to write on two questions. The exam will be open book/open note and will be worth 20% of your grade.

Note: Graduate Students in 569 have additional requirements, as described in a separate document.

Schedule:

Week 1
1/4
Introduction: The Great Plains and the Native peoples of the Plains

1/6
Land and Animals
Readings: Fowler (1), Medicine Crow, Harrod (1), Powell, Morsette, Momaday

Week 2
1/11
Land and Animals–continued
Readings: Barsh and Marlor, Harrod (2), Irwin

1/13
Horses and trade
Readings: West, Hämäläinen

Week 3
1/18  No class–holiday

1/20  Gender
Readings: Peters, Klein
Week 4
1/25
Decline of bison
Readings: Krech, Isenberg

1/27
Disease
Readings: Churchill, Dollar, Four Bears speech, Powers and Leiker
FIRST PAPER DUE

Week 5
2/1
State projects
Readings: Ronda, Anderson

2/3
U.S. conquest
Readings: Josephy, Fowler (2)

Week 6
2/8
U.S. conquest–continued
FIRST QUIZ

2/10
Visions
Readings: Black Elk Speaks (chapters 1-11), Linderman

Week 7
2/15
Reservations and colonialism
Readings: Ostler, Foster, Adams

2/17
The Black Road
Reading: *Black Elk Speaks* (chapters 12-25)

**Week 8**

2/22

Who was Black Elk?
Readings: Rice, Steltenkamp
SECOND PAPER DUE

2/24

Land in the 20th century
Readings: Iverson, Spence

**Week 9**

3/1

The Lakotas’ Black Hills claim and sacred lands
Readings: Worster, Sundstrom

3/3

Black Hills claim and sacred lands–continued

**Week 10**

3/8

Red Power
Readings: Wilkinson, Crow Dog

3/10

Red Power–continued
SECOND QUIZ

Final exam: Tuesday, March 16, 3:15-5:15
THIRD PAPER DUE
Readings


Howard L. Harrod, excerpt on Blackfoot Sun Dance, in *Renewing the World*, pp. 117-134.


Raymond J. DeMallie, “Touching the Pen: Plains Indian Treaty Councils in Ethnohistorical


267-271.
