

SYLLABUS
"A Good Day to Die"
Indian Wars in the American West

OLLI Spring, 2023

Week 1: What Came Before (*From Christopher Columbus to Manifest Destiny*)

- 1) North America Before Columbus
- 2) The Coming of Europeans
- 3) How Did Native Life Change?
- 4) America Expands Westward

Additional Reading

MacDonald, David and Raine Waters, **We Could Perceive No Sign of Them: Failed Colonies in North America 1526-1689**, Westholm (Yardley, 2020).

Utley, Robert M. and Wilcomb E. Washburn, **Indian Wars**, American Heritage (New York, 1977).

Week 2: A House Divided (*Genesis of the Western Wars*)

- 1) What Price Manifest Destiny?
- 2) Changing of the Guard in the West
- 3) The Dakota War of 1862
- 4) Sand Creek
- 5) "... and dedicated to the proposition ..."

Additional Reading

Utley, Robert M., **Frontiersmen in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian Wars, 1848-1865**, University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln and London, 1967).

Week 3: The Opponents (*The US Army and the Natives*)

- 1) The Native Americans
- 2) The Regular Army-O

Additional Reading

Anon, **Chronological List of Actions &c. with Indians from January 1, 1837 to January, 1891**, Adjutant General's Office (Washington, 1891). Reprinted by The Old Army Press [1979].

Cozzens, Peter, **The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West**, Alfred A. Knopf (New York, 2016).

Utley, Robert M., **Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and the Indian Wars, 1866-1890**, Macmillan Publishing Co. (New York, 1973).

Week 4: Red Cloud's War (The Lakota and the Northern Plains)

- 1) Northern Plains Overview
- 2) The Lakota, their friends, and their enemies
- 3) The Bozeman Trail and Red Cloud's War
- 4) Red Cloud's victory and the problems of peace

Additional Reading

Drury, Bob and Tom Clavin, **The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend**, Simon and Schuster (New York, 2014).

Week 5: Hancock's War (and the Southern Plains)

- 1) The Southern Plains
- 2) Hancock's war against the Southern Cheyenne
- 3) Peace Commission of 1867 and the "Concentration Policy"
- 4) Grant's Peace Policy 1869-74

Additional Reading

Hoig, Stan, **The Battle of the Washita**, University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln and London, 1976).

Week 6: "It is a Good Day for You to Die" (*The Long Struggle for Apacheria and Comancheria*)

- 1) *Apacheria* and *Comancheria*
- 2) Crook's winter Campaign 1872-73
- 3) Growing trouble in *Comancheria*
- 4) Red River War 1874-75

Additional Reading

Charles River Editors., **The Apache and Comanche: The History and Legacy of the Southwest's Most Famous Warrior Tribes**, Charles River Editors (Monee, IL, 2022). (*Really only a pamphlet, but a nice overview*)

Gwynne, S. C., **Empire of the Southern Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, The Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History**, Scribner (New York, 2010).

Hutton, Paul Andrew, **The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy Who Started the Longest War in American History**, Broadway Books (New York, 2016).

Week 7: The Forgotten Wars (*The Great Basin and Pacific Northwest*)

- 1) Crook vs the Paiutes, 1867-68
- 2) Modoc War 1872-73
- 3) Nez Percé 1877
- 4) Bannock-Paiute War 1878
- 5) Ute War 1879

Additional Reading

Beal, Merrill D., **"I Will Fight No More Forever:" Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War**, University of Washington (Seattle and London, 1963).

Week 8: Finale (*From the Little Bighorn to Wounded Knee*)

- 1) Bighorn Campaign 1876-77
- 2) Victorio and Geronimo 1876-86
- 3) Wounded Knee

Additional Reading

Panzeri, Peter, **Little Big Horn 1876**, Osprey (London, 1993).

Philbrick, Nathaniel, **The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn**, Penguin (New York, 2010).

Additional Reading: Indian Accounts of the Battle of the Little Bighorn

Hardorff, Richard D., ed, **Lakota Recollections of the Custer Fight: New Sources of Indian Military History**, Arthur H. Clark o., (Spokane, 1991).

Libby, O. G. ed., **The Arikara Narrative of the Campaign Against the Hostile Dakotas, June, 1876**, , J. M. arroll & Co. , (Bryan and Mattituk , 1920).

Miller, David Humphreys, **Custer's Fall: The Indian Side of the Story**, University of Nebraska, (Lincoln and London, 1957).

Welch, James with Paul Stekler, **Killing Custer**, W. W. Norton, (New York, 1994).