“Teasing Indian Agency, Tribal Voice, and Persistence from the Record”

Professor Cary Miller, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of History
Professor David Beck, University of Montana, Department of Native American Studies

This institute will examine Indian responses to federal Indian policy in the 19th and 20th centuries with a focus on the roles that tribal leaders and tribes played in shaping that policy. Despite the handicap of working from positions of weakness through much of this time period, tribal leaders worked hard, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, to proactively and reactively shape the futures of their communities in political, social and economic terms. Teasing Indian agency and voice from the record can be difficult, but is not only possible, but increasingly central to studies of tribal communities and individuals. Students will be encouraged to find ways to incorporate Indian agency, tribal voice, and tribal persistence into their own work, no matter the subject or time period.

This intensive four-week seminar will begin with two weeks of common readings, tapering gradually as research takes a larger proportion of time towards the end of the second week. Students will use the Newberry collections to respond to issues raised by readings in the first half of the course. Throughout the Institute films germane to our theme will be screened at the Newberry in the late afternoon or early evening as scheduling allows. These are required viewing for discussions.

The instructors intend for the workload to be equivalent to a semester’s, enabling students to arrange independent study credit through their campus faculty. A research essay of 20-30 pages will be required.

*N.B. Readings should be copied by the student and brought to seminar for discussion. Because the Newberry does not have the copying resources for an entire Institute participants are asked print out copies of articles accessed through JSTOR and other online databases, and the pdf files we will send to you via email. In some cases websites are listed in the syllabus. You are required to purchase (or check out from your university library) the following books:

Frederick Hoxie’s Talking Back to Civilization: Indian Voices in the Progressive Era;
Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, The State of the Native Nations;
John W. Hall Uncommon Defense,
Jackson, Donald, ed. Black Hawk: An Autobiography,
Brenda Child, Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families 1900-1940,
Daniel Cobb, Native Activism in Cold War America: The Struggle for Sovereignty,
Warren Metcalf, Termination’s Legacy: The Discarded Indians of Utah,
David Wilkins, American Indian Sovereignty and the US Supreme Court: The Making of Justice
REQUIREMENTS:

• Attendance and active participation in discussions
• 20-30 page research paper (Working bibliography of primary and secondary sources due August 2)

Pre-circulated discussion questions: Each member of the seminar is required to prepare up to three questions about that week’s readings and to circulate them to that week’s discussion instigator and to the instructors by 8:00 pm the night before our seminar meeting. Your questions should address ideas, themes, and/or issues that emerged for you in that week’s readings that you would like to see the group discuss. Your questions should focus on what you find interesting, provocative, difficult, or intriguing. Questions that seek to connect themes across the readings are especially welcome.

Discussion instigation: Each member of the seminar will be responsible for “instigating” one of our discussions. “Instigators” will collate the questions submitted by seminar participants, select (anonymously) a set of questions that promise to guide our discussions in fruitful directions, and circulate them to the group the day of our meeting. The role of the instigator is to provide a starting point for our conversations and to provide questions that will keep our discussions on track, rather than to lead a discussion from start to finish.

Meetings: Meetings with Instructions are required. The intent of these meetings is to give you guidance on your independent projects. The meetings on the 4th will focus on your working bibliography and the meetings on the 16th and 17th will be with both instructors where we will workshop your rough draft with you individually.

GRADING:

Attendance/participation: 15%
Working bibliography: 10%
Pre-circulated questions/discussion instigation: 10%
Draft of paper 10%
Preliminary Presentation 5%
Final Presentation 10%
Research paper: 40%

WEEK ONE

July 26: 9:00 – 12:00: Discussion: What is American Indian Studies?
2:00 – 3:00: Newberry library protocol and overview of collections
3:00-4:00: Introduction to the Ayer Collection

Readings:
Peter Nabokov, “Introduction: Short History of American Indian Historicity,” and Chapter One, “Some Dynamics of American Indian Historicity,” A Forest of Time: American Indian Ways of

**July 27:** 9:00 – 12:00: **Discussion: History without Text & the Place of the Artifact**

- 2:00pm  Library Tour
- 3:00pm  Wifi setup

**Readings:**

**July 28:** 9:00 – 12:00 **Discussion: Missionaries – Instigators of cultural change or early ethnographers?**

- 2:00 – 4:00 Field Museum field trip

**Readings:**

ABCFM TBA
July 29: **2:00 – 5:00pm in B-81** Discussion: Tribes and Early America – Negotiating new status

**Readings:**

July 30: **1:30 – 2:00: Show and Tell in 2 West**
**2:00-5:00** Discussion – Preparation for and Response to Treaties

**Readings:**
- Selections from ABCFM papers TBA

**WEEK TWO**

August 2: **9:00 – 12:00:** Discussion: Progressive Era and Indian Voices

**Readings:**

**Preliminary Bibliography Due**

August 3: **2:00 – 5:00:** Indian Commentary of the 1930s

**Readings:**


**August 4:** Archives and reading day. Meetings with the instructors, by appointment.
*If you have resources to use from the Special Collections, please request them in the morning.*

**August 5:** 2:00 – 5:00: Discussion: Termination, Restoration and urbanization

**Readings:**

**August 6-7:** NCAIS Graduate Conference

**WEEK THREE**

**August 9:** 9:00 – 12:00: Discussion: Native Nations and Future Directions

**Readings:**

**August 10:** Research and writing

**August 11:** Research and writing. Meetings with the instructors, by appointment

**August 12:** 9:00 – 12:00, and 1:30 – 4:30: Individual presentations of student work in progress, 20 minutes each

**August 13:** Research and writing Rough Draft due
WEEK FOUR

August 16: Research and writing. Meetings with the instructors, by appointment.
August 17: Research and writing. Meetings with the instructors
August 18: Research and writing
August 19: Research and writing
August 20: 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:30 – 4:30: Final presentations (20 minutes each). Papers due!

Towner Fellows Lounge, 2nd floor