Why You Can’t Teach U.S. History without American Indians

A Newberry Symposium Commemorating the 40th year of the McNickle Center

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies at Michigan State University

Friday, May 3 to 4, 2013
Ruggles Hall, The Newberry, Chicago

For generations U.S. historians wrote the nation’s story as if Indians did not exist, or at best, they marginalized Indian peoples as unimportant actors in the national drama of revolution and democratic state formation. Despite the large number of faculty trained in American Indian history very little has changed and most college level students who enroll in large survey courses in U.S. history learn about Indians during the initial stages of encounter and then, Indians are often depicted as succumbing to epidemic diseases or being pushed off their lands by westward expansion.

The mission of this symposium is to change how historians teach U.S. history. Today, we are fortunate to have a large number of faculty who teach American Indian Studies and the knowledge base that these scholars possess is profound, thoroughgoing, and expansive. These new perspectives need to be better incorporated into the interpretation and writing of history. Repeatedly, we hear faculty proclaim that they would include Indians if they were more central to mainstream history. This symposium intends to challenge that perspective and to provide a new expanded resource for college level faculty.

www.newberry.org/why-you-cant-teach

The symposium is free and open to the public.

RSVP to mcnickle@newberry.org by April 26, 2013

SESSIONS

Land, Borders, and Sacred Spaces
Mikal Brotnov
Margaret Jacobs
Juliana Barr
Kiara M. Vigil

Religious Freedom, Citizenship, and Education
Jacob Betz
Jeffrey D. Means
Phillip H. Round

Colonial to Early Republic
James D. Rice
Sarah Pearsall
Margaret Newell
Susan Sleeper-Smith

The Opening of the West
Robert Miller
Adam Jortner
Jeani O’Brien

The Civil War Era
Paul T. Conrad
Luke C. Ryan
Scott Manning Stevens

Reconstruction and the Progressive Era
Jeffrey Ostler
Malinda Maynor Lowery
Brenda Child
John Troutman

From the Indian New Deal to the Postwar Era
Mindy J. Morgan
Sierra Adare-Tasiwoopa ápi
Andrew Needham

Civil Rights, Indigenous Rights
David Beck
John J. Laukaitis
K. Tsianina Lomawaima
Chris Andersen

Concluding Remarks
Nancy Shoemacker