

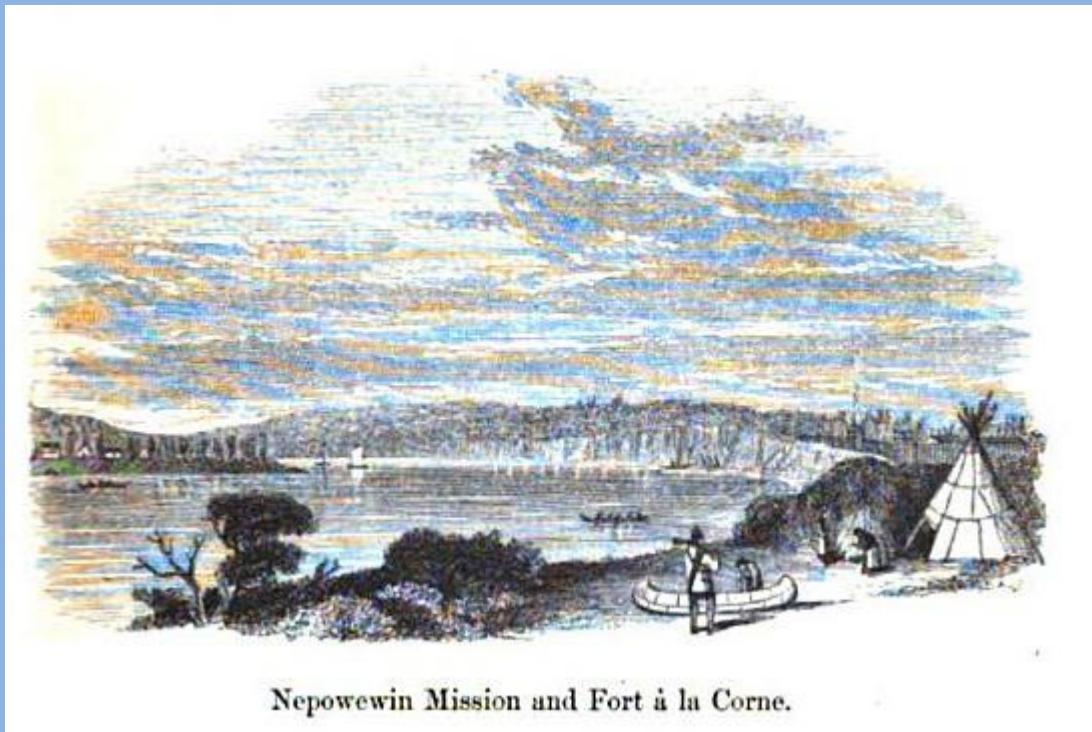
## HTST 439: The Canadian West

MWF 11:00

George Colpitts

Was the West really won? The early Canadian West served as a site of both intercultural exchange and violent contests among European empire-building nations. In its long history, the prairie west was “aboriginal space” dominated by the power and politics of First Nations bison hunters and those moving into the region from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Variable and changing climate significantly shaped the history of this cultural borderland. Its past was reconfigured by horse trading, warfare and peace treaties and the tumult of fur trading and commercial bison hunting. It was further transformed by the colonization schemes of railway builders, law enforcers and Canadian government administrators. Recent developments in environmental history, ethnohistory and archaeology have re-written Western Canadian history. Students in this course will learn the complex realities of prairie First Nations, the pioneer experience for men, women and children, and the significant economic and ecological changes occurring with the first ranching and agricultural land booms and town-building of the late nineteenth century.

**The text for this course will be Gerald Friesen, *The Canadian Prairies*,** a short monograph (TBD). The instructor will also provide articles and reading excerpts to students via internet links and the course blackboard.



Nepowewin Mission and Fort à la Corne.

*From Henry Youle Hind's Narrative of the Red River Exploring Expedition of 1857 (London: 1860)*