Topics in Native History:
Native people in Canada from fur trade to settlement.

HISTORY 529
Winter 2009
Tuesday 4:00-7:00
Room SS623
ROBIN FISHER
Phone 403-440-6858
rfisher@mtroyal.ca

COURSE CONTENT

This course will deal with the history of Native people in Canada and, in particular, the ways in which historians have approached and interpreted that history. We will look at aspects of the history of Native people and their relations with newcomers from the time of European contact to the present. We will also examine how those relationships changed with the shift from fur trade to settlement.

RED BOX POLICY CHANGE FOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY: As of January 1, 2009, papers received after 4:00 P.M. will be date stamped the next business day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Seminar participation 25%
Seminar presentation 15%
Book review 20%
Essay 40%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Trigger, Bruce, Natives and Newcomers: Canada’s “Heroic Age” Reconsidered.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all course requirements and all written assignments must be handed in on the due date.

1. Seminar participation (25%)

Each week we will all discuss the readings listed in the “weekly readings” section of the course outline. Each student is expected to read the assigned readings, think about the issues that they raise and come to class prepared to discuss them. This portion of the grade will be assigned on the basis of your knowledge of the readings and the quality of your contribution to the discussion of them.

2. Seminar presentation (15%)

Each student will make a short (about 10 minute) oral presentation on the readings for a particular week and then help to lead the seminar discussion for that week. The presentations will summarize the central arguments of the readings and will raise questions for discussion. A one-page outline of the presentation will also be handed in on the day of the presentation.

3. Book review (20%) due 10 February

Each student will write a 4-5 page (about 1,200 word) book review. You should chose a book that has made a significant contribution to Canadian Native history to review and you should check the title with me before you start on the review. The review should be analytical and critical rather than descriptive. It should evaluate its contribution to the understanding of the Native history of Canada and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the book.

For additional information on how to write a book review see “Book reviews and Documentary Analysis” in the Short Guide to Writing History Essays on the History Department Home Page at: http://www.hist.ucalgary.ca.

4. Essay (40%) due 31 March.

Each student will write an essay of a maximum of 15 pages (4,000 words) in length. Your essay should be on a topic about which there is a significant body of historical literature. The topics that we cover in the weekly reading will indicate possibilities, but your essay must be on a different topic from your seminar presentation. You should talk to me about your essay topic and have it approved before you go ahead with a lot of work on it.

I will hand out a select bibliography on Canadian Native History at the first class, there is a short “Guide to Further Reading” at the end of Coates and Fisher, Out of the
Background and you should also consult Shepard Krech, *Native Canadian Anthropology and History* which, though published in 1986, is still a good introduction to the secondary literature.

You should choose an essay topic, after a good deal of reading, formulate the title in the form of a question and develop a thesis statement as an answer to that question. I will evaluate your essay particularly on the extent of your research on the chosen topic, the clarity of your thesis and the logic of your argument.

The History department home page (http://www.hist.ucalgary.ca) includes “A Short Guide to Writing History Essays” that you should consult for the preparation of your essay.

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not.

As noted in the History Department’s *Short Guide to Writing History Essays*, plagiarism may take several forms:

a) Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, ideas, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.

b) Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.

c) Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of these works. The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in *The University of Calgary Calendar*.

**WEEKLY READINGS**

**Week 1:**  Introduction and organisation.

**Week 2:**  Trigger, *Natives and Newcomers*, chapter 1.  

**Week 3:**  Trigger, *Natives and Newcomers*, chapter 2.
Week 4: Trigger, "Natives and Newcomers," chapter 3.
Blondin, "When the World was New: Stories of the Sahtu Dene" (in Coates and Fisher).

Week 5: **Book review due**


Week 7: Binnema, "Common and Contested Ground," chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.


Week 9: Binnema, "Common and Contested Ground," chapters 7 and 8 and conclusion.
Van Kirk, "'Women in Between': Indian Women in Fur Trade Society in Western Canada" (in Coates and Fisher).

Week 10: Fisher, "Contact and Conflict," chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Harris, "Voices of Disaster: Smallpox Around the Strait of Georgia in 1782" (in Coates and Fisher).

Week 11: **Essay due**
Fisher, "Contact and Conflict," chapters 5, 7 and 8.
