Introduction

"Cultures in Contact" is a multi-disciplinary course which combines Historical, Anthropological, Geographical and Literary analyses of the continuing "contact period" in the New World. The issues addressed span the last 500+ years of cultural interaction in the Americas, looking especially at the processes of cultural conflict, competition, cooperation, and synthesis that have taken place among people from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Books: Most of the readings will be on-line, linked to the schedule on this site. You need to find a copy of Peter Nabokov (ed.) Native American Testimony and you can find many new and used copies on-line. Please make sure that you get the 1999 revised addition (0140281592), not the 1991 edition (0140129863) or any other version. The 1991 version does not contain all of the assigned readings. The book is not available at the bookstore.

Requirements: Grades will be assigned on the basis of three exams and twelve short assignments. See the Assignments page for details.

Important Details: This is the main web site for the class, but Canvas will occasionally be used for posting files and sending out information.

The Teaching Assistants for this class are Angelina Sweeny and Karissa Basse. Ms. Sweeny will hold office hours in the Anthropology Department (Student Activities Center, 5th Floor) Room SAC 4.192 from 9:00 to 10:30 on Friday, and by appointment if necessary. Ms. Basse will hold office hours in SAC 4.180 from 1:00-2:00 on Tuesdays, and by appointment if necessary. If you have questions, please contact the Teaching Assistant before contacting the Professor. For questions of interest to the whole class we will try to come up with an answer and then send it out to everyone. Professor Wilson’s office hours are Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00 in CLA 4.404 (the new Liberal Arts building).

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice)
Flag: This course carries the flag for *Cultural Diversity in the United States*. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

**[Obligatory threatening passages]**

Students who miss exams or the due dates of assignments without notifying the professor or Teaching Assistants *in advance* will, under most circumstances, not be allowed to take the exam and will forfeit that portion of their grade.

If you do not hand in a short "activity" report on the day it is due, you may hand it in the next class period. After that the assignment will not be accepted. Sorry, but activities will not be accepted by email.

We take plagiarism extremely seriously, particularly the use of a sort of "cut and paste" approach to your written "activity" assignments. If you haven't already done so, please review the learning module on plagiarism here -

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/

Cases of academic dishonesty are refered to the Dean of Students, whose policies are discussed here:

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php

Attendance will not be taken, but you should consider being in class to be extremely important. The exams will cover both the reading material and our discussions in class. Powerpoint presentations and other material used in class will not be made available on the web or released individually.

**Other Information:**

The University of Texas has many resources to help you deal with academic and non-academic issues. Here are just some of these resources. If you have other questions, needs, or concerns, please speak to the TAs or Professor:

- Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling: http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc
- Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
- Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/
- Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/
• BCAL - the "behavioral concerns advice line" is a great service to use if someone you know is having real problems or seems to be a possible threat to themselves or others: http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal
Introduction to the main themes of the course. Setting within world pre/history; General path of emerging complexity. New World and Old World societies generally, following separate but similar trajectories of political development.

Europe and Others 400-1500; Collapse of Roman Empire; Germanic Tribes; Islam/Near East; Byzantine Empire; Interactions with Africa and Asia

Lawrence Wright, "One Drop of Blood", New Yorker, July 25, 1994

Europe and Others; Major Trends in Europe, post-1000 A.D.; Population growth and epidemics; Emerging trading class; Emerging city-states; Competing principalities; Attempts at unification; Religious expansion / Proselytization; "proto-colonization" of Greenland, Ireland, etc.; Reconquista in Iberia. Impetus for Exploration; Trade with the East; Marco Polo; Venice, etc. and powerful merchant families; African discoveries;


The Americas before conquest; New World Politics; Economies; Dealings with others; Long term Cycles of Expansion - Collapse in the New World

Karl W. Butzer, "This is Indian Country," Geographical Magazine V.52, 1979: 140-4
Miguel León-Portilla, "Men of Maize" In America in 1492, pp. 147-175

The Onset of Western Exploration; Italian City-states' dilemma; Columbian Voyages; Conquest of the Caribbean

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Entradas and tools of conquest. Explorations of Cortés, Pizarro, Coronado, De Soto. Impact of Disease on America's population, Early conquest period.  
*Bernal Díaz del Castillo*, *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1956: 197-225 |
| 2 March    | Midterm 1 (tues)   | Overall Colonial Strategies / Patterns of Exploitation;  
Spanish; French; Case Study: the prehistory and history of the Caddo People.  
| 9 Mar      | Activity 5 (thurs) | Colonial strategies of the English and French in North America and elsewhere; Portuguese; Dutch; Swedish; German, and others  
| 16 Mar.    |             | SPRING BREAK                                                             |
| 23 Mar.    | Activity 7                      | North America from 1600-1800, French vs. English strategies; Iroquois as power brokers; Native Americans and the Revolutionary War; Native American Resistance; King Phillip's War, Pueblo Rebellion  
*D. Leach*, "Colonial Indian Wars", *Handbook*: 128-43  
*Nabokov, Chapter 5* |
| 6 April    | Exam 2 (Thurs)                  | Emerging U.S. policies concerning others in the 19th Century; Northwest Ordinance; Removal Era; African-Americans and Mexican-Americans, The Republic of Texas.  
*Nabokov, P. Chapter 7* |
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Additional readings