

## *French Borderlands in North America*

This course provides an introduction and critical overview of the history of Native American, European and West African encounters in French North America between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries. Particular attention will be paid to patterns of interaction, inter-dependency, domination and syncretism that emerged and evolved through the multi-cultural crucible of this encounter in **New France, Acadia, Louisiana, and Haiti**. This will be accomplished through lectures, readings and discussions that focus on the social, economic, cultural, gender, and political encounters, alliances, struggles, revolts, and transformations that characterize this history.

**Course Requirements:** regular attendance; close reading skills; write 5 two-page book reviews; hand in a one-page research paper prospectus with accompanying bibliography; and write a 10-12 research page paper on a theme or topic addressed in the course

### **Required Texts:**

Olive Dickason, *The Myth of the Savage* (U. of Alberta, 1997).  
 W. J. Eccles, *The Canadian Frontier* (New Mexico, 1999).  
 Allan Greer, ed., *The Jesuit Relations* (Bedford, 2000)  
 Daniel Usner, *Indians, Settlers and Slaves in a Frontier ...* (North Carolina, 1990).  
 Carl Brasseaux, *The Founding of New Acadia* (LSUP, 1987).  
 Thomas Ott, *The Haitian Revolution 1789-1804* (Tennessee, 1973).  
 Philip Whalen, "French Borderlands in North America Reader."

### **Recommended:**

W. J. Eccles, *The French in North America: 1500-1763* (MSUP, 1998).  
 Robin Briggs, *Early-Modern France: 1560-1715* (Oxford, 1977).

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings:**

**Week 1: France, Early Atlantic Voyages and Reconnaissance.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** French Society, Peoples and Institutions.

**Thur.** Explorations, and First Cultural Encounters.

**Reading:** Greer, *The Jesuit Relations*, "Introduction." Dickason, *The Myth of the Savage* chs. 1-2, 4 and Eccles, *The Canadian Frontier* chs. 1-2. Also see Choquette, "Recruitment of French Emigrants;" Martin, "The European Impact;" Rietbergen, "A New Society."

**Week 2: Northeastern American Societies and Canadian New France.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Algonquian and Iroquoian Cultures.

**Thur.** Trapping, Trading and French Habitants.

**Reading:** McMillan, "The Iroquoians of the Eastern Woodlands;" Dickason, *The Myth of the Savage* chs. 5, 7-9; Wallis and Wallis, "Elnu, the People;" and Greer, *The Jesuit Relations*, ch. 1. Also consider: Harris, "The Extension of France into Rural Canada" and Eccles, *The Canadian Frontier*, chs. 4-6.

**Week 3: Algonkin-French Relations.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** From Alliance to Interdependence.  
**Thur.** The Fate of the Wendats.

**Reading:** Greer, ed., *The Jesuit Relations*, ch. 2-3; Sioui, "Wendat Society;" Anderson, "Chain Her by One Foot;" Dickason, *The Myth of the Savage* chs. 11-13; Eccles, *The Canadian Frontier*, chs. 3, 7-8; Heidenreich, "The names 'Huron,' 'Huronnia,' and Wendat;" and consider Jaenen, "Amerindian Views of French Culture...." Consider: Parkman, "Morals and Manners, 1640-1763."

**Week 4: Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Common Struggles for Survival. **Book Reviews Due!**  
**Thur.** The Arrival of French Slavery.

**Reading:** Usner, *Indians, Settlers and Slaves*, chs. 1-4; Bossu, *Travel to the Interior* (selections); Cohen, "The Establishment of Slave Societies;" and Hall, "French New Orleans."

**Week 5: Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** The Development of Creole Culture.  
**Mid-term essay questions given out.**  
**Thur.** Spanish Interlude.

**Reading:** Usner, *Indians, Settlers and Slaves*, chs. 5-8; Thorne, "People in Between;" Berlin, "Devolution in the Lower Mississippi;" Phillips, "The Spoken French of Louisiana;" and Hall, "The Creole Slaves."

**Week 6: Haiti and the Smaller Caribbean Islands.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Sugar and Plantation Society. **Mid-terms due.**  
**Thur.** Slavery, Industrialization and Liberty.

**Reading:** Eccles, "The Slave Islands;" James, "French Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery;" Milling, "The Acadian and San Domingue French;" and begin Thomas Ott, *The Haitian Revolution 1789-1804*.

**Week 7: Haiti and the Smaller Caribbean Islands.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Revolution.  
**Thur.** French Islands Since 1803. **Book reviews due.**

**Reading:** Finish Thomas Ott, *The Haitian Revolution 1789-1804* ; Beriss, "Culture-as-Race or Culture-as-Culture;" and Christian Huetz de Lempis, "Indentured Servants Bound for the French Antilles."

**Week 8: From Barachois to Bayou.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Acadia and Diaspora.  
**Thur.** Louisiana Acadian, Creole or Cajun?

**Reading:** Brasseaux, *The Founding of New Acadia* chs. 1-2, 4-7, 9-11; Brasseaux, "Emergence of Class;" Woods, "Letoyant Creole Identity;" Rushton, "Confused Perceptions..." and "Acadian Folk Life." See Charlevoix, "Description" and Anthony, "Lost Boundaries."

**Week 9: French-America in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Cultural, Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Survival.

**Thur.** Québécois Nationalism. **Research Prospectus Due!**

**Reading:** "English Books Banned...;" Morissoneau, "The 'Ungovernable' People...;" Corbett, "Québec Nationalism;" Martel, "When a Majority becomes a Minority...;" Anctil, "The Franco-Americans of New England;" Also see, Ouellet, "The Historical Background of Separatism in Québec."

**Week 10: Americans and African-Americans in France.**

**Lectures:** **Tues.** Americans, Africans and African-Americans "Abroad."

**Thur.** Eurodisneyland, Coca-Colonialization, and José Bové.

**Reading:** Stovall, "Bringing the Jazz Age to Paris;" Fabre, "Creole Expatriates in France;" Winock, "French Anti-Americanism;" Sinton, "Vintage Coup;" and Kuisel, "Détente; Debating America in the 1960s."

**Research Papers Due as Determined**