This course has an on-line website in HuskyCT, accessible at http://huskyct.uconn.edu.

The course is a research seminar, intended to introduce students to a range of historical literature and research techniques, and to provide the opportunity to complete either a substantial research paper or a substantial historiographical essay on a topic connected with the theme of the course.

Weekly meetings will be devoted to one or more of three types of activity: discussion of common reading required of all students; reports from students on supplementary reading; and students’ preparation of papers on approved topics of their own choice.

Before meetings at which there is common reading students are required to post comments to the relevant discussion thread on the course HuskyCT site by no later than 10.00 am on the day the class meets. Comments may take whatever form students wish, but should be at least 300 words in length.

Students will also take turns to read and report to the seminar on some of the works listed each week under “supplementary reading.” These reports may be used as the basis for a five-page paper, which is due to be submitted by March 13.

Each student will also prepare a substantial paper, which should have about 30 pages of text plus scholarly apparatus and be written as an article (or review article) for an academic journal. It should either be based on research in primary sources and be informed by relevant secondary literature, or be a survey of relevant literature in its chosen field. We shall begin at the first meeting to discuss possible topics for these papers. Paper topics must be approved by me. Students will give presentations on their papers on April 22 or April 29, and submit their papers no later than Tuesday, May 6.

Final course grades will be based on students’ preparation for and participation in discussion,
as well as on the papers they submit.

**Schedule of meetings**

*Asterisked items are required reading, and (except for that for April 15) have been ordered for purchase from the UConn Co-op textbook department.*

**January 21**  **Introduction to the course**

Preliminary discussion of paper topics

**January 28**  **Colonizers and colonized**


Supplementary reading:


**February 4**  **Why the Indians lost their land**


Supplementary reading:

Stuart Banner, “[The political function of the commons: Changing conceptions of property and sovereignty in Missouri, 1750-1850,](https://doi.org/10.1086/422289)” *American Journal of Legal History* 41 (1997)

Eric Cheyfitz, “Doctrines of discovery: The foundations of colonialism in Federal Indian law,”

Johnson v. McIntosh, 21 U.S. 543 (1823).


February 11  

**Land and conflict in the Revolutionary period**


Supplementary reading:


letters I-IV, IX-XII, sketches I-IV, VI, VIII-XII.
-------. "Stopping the progress of rogues and deceivers": A White Indian recruiting notice of 1808. William and Mary Quarterly 42, no. 1 (1985): 90-103

February 18  Land and politics in the nineteenth century


Supplementary reading:

Mark A. Lause, *Young America: Land, labor, and the republican community* (2005).

February 25 **Occupying the antebellum “West”**


Supplementary reading


March 4 **Landscapes, settlements, and health**


Supplementary reading:


Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (1949).


Steven Stoll, Larding the lean earth: Soil and society in 19th century America (2002).


March 11 The “father of environmentalism”


March 13 Students’ 5-page papers must be submitted no later than 5pm

March 18 Spring break: no meeting

March 25 Land in the “Great West”


Supplementary reading:


Gary D. Libecap and Zeynep K. Hansen. "‘Rain follows the plow’ and dry-farming doctrine:

April 1 The family farm


Supplementary reading:

Dona Brown, *Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America*

April 8 **The environment and American history**


April 15 **Work in progress**

*Christopher Clark, “The Age of Freehold: American Concepts of Farming and Land Tenure from the Revolution to the Cold War” draft book manuscript, 2013-14

April 22 **Students' presentations**

April 29 **Students' presentations**

May 6 **Deadline for submission of 30-page papers**