HIST 5544 Syllabus

Taught as: History 5195
Spring Semester 2014

AMERICAN LAND AND SOCIETY

Tuesdays 1pm-4pm
Wood Hall 4A

Christopher Clark

Office hours: Wednesdays 2.15-4.15, or by appointment
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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**

* Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur*, New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2007; part 2, "Settler Colonialism," pp. 165-390

Supplementary reading:

Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron, "From borderlands to borders: Empires, nation-states and the peoples in between in North American history," *American Historical Review* 104 (1999): 814-841

Stuart Banner, *Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska* (2007).

James Belich, *Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Anglo-World, 1783-1939* (2009).

Maureen Konkle, "Indigenous Ownership and the Emergence of U.S. Liberal Imperialism," *American Indian Quarterly* 32 (Summer 2008): 297-323.

Patrick Wolfe, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native," *Journal of Genocide Research* 8 (December 2006): 387-409.

John C. Weaver, *The Great Land Rush and the Making of the Modern World, 1650-1900* (2003)

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

* Stuart Banner, *How the Indians lost their land: Law and power on the frontier*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005.

Supplementary reading:

Stuart Banner, "The political function of the commons: Changing conceptions of property and sovereignty in Missouri, 1750-1850," *American Journal of Legal History* 41 (1997)

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

Common-Place 2, no. 1 (2001).
William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (1983)
Kathleen DuVal, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent* (2007)
Allan Greer, "Commons and Enclosure in the Colonization of North America," *American Historical Review* 117, no. 2 (April 2012): 365-386.
Johnson v. McIntosh, 21 U.S. 543 (1823).
Eric Kades, "History and interpretation of the great case of *Johnson v. McIntosh*," *Law and History Review* 19 (2001): 67-116.
Jean M. O'Brien, *Dispossession by degrees: Indian land and identity in Natick, Massachusetts, 1650-1790* (1997).
Linda S. Parker, *Native American Estate: The Struggle over Indian and Hawaiian Land* (1989).
Theda Perdue, *Cherokee women: Gender and culture change, 1700-1835* (1998).
Claudio Saunt, *A new order of things: Property, power, and the transformation of the Creek Indians, 1733-1816* (1999).
Daniel H. Usner, Jr, "Iroquois livelihood and Jeffersonian agrarianism: Reaching behind the models and the metaphors," in Frederick E. Hoxie, et. al., *Native Americans and the Early Republic* (1999).
Anthony F. C. Wallace, *Jefferson and the Indians: The tragic fate of the first Americans* (1999).
Richard White, *The middle ground: Indians, empires, and republics in the Great Lakes region, 1650-1815* (1991).

February 11 **Land and conflict in the Revolutionary period**

* Alan Taylor, *The Divided Ground: Indians, settlers, and the northern borderland of the American Revolution*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Supplementary reading:

Manuela Albertone, "The French moment of the American national identity: St. John Crèvecoeur's agrarian myth," *History of European Ideas* 32, no. 1 (March 2006): 28-57
Joyce Appleby, "The social origins of American revolutionary ideology." *Journal of American History* 64, no. 4 (1978): 935-958.
———. "Commercial farming and the "Agrarian myth" In the early republic." *Journal of American History* 68, no. 4 (1982): 833-849.
Terry Bouton, "A Road Closed: Rural insurgency in post-Independence Pennsylvania," *Journal of American History* 87 (2000): 855-887.
--------- .*Taming democracy: The people, the founders, and the troubled ending of the American Revolution* (2007).
Edward J. Cashin, " 'But brothers, it is our land we are talking about': Winners and losers in the Georgia backcountry," in R. Hoffman, T.W. Tate and P. J. Albert, ed, *An Uncivil War: The southern backcountry during the American Revolution* (1985).
J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, *Letters from an American farmer* [1782] *and sketches of eighteenth-century America* [first published 1925]. New York: Penguin Classics, 1981,

letters I-IV, IX-XII, sketches I-IV, VI, VIII-XII.

François Furstenberg, “The Significance of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier in Atlantic History,” *American Historical Review* 113, no. 3 (June 2008): 647-677.

Norman S. Grabo, "Crèvecoeur's American: Beginning the world anew." *William and Mary Quarterly* 48, no. 2 (1991): 159-172.

Woody Holton, “Abigail Adams, bond speculator,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 64, no. 4 (2007): 821-838.

Thomas J. Humphrey, “ ‘Extravagant claims’ and ‘hard labour’: Perceptions of property in the Hudson Valley, 1751-1801,” *Pennsylvania History* 65 (1998).

----------. *Land and liberty: Hudson Valley riots in the age of revolution* (2004).

Wayne E. Lee, "The revolution and the common man's land." *William and Mary Quarterly* 62, no. 3 (2005): 557-561.

Bruce Mazlish, “Crèvecoeur’s new world,” *Wilson Quarterly* 6, no. 4 (1982): 140-147.

Alan Taylor, *Liberty men and great proprietors: The revolutionary settlement on the Maine frontier, 1760-1820* (1990).

----------. "Stopping the progress of rogues and deceivers": A White Indian recruiting notice of 1808." *William and Mary Quarterly* 42, no. 1 (1985): 90-103

-————. ""A kind of warr": The contest for land on the northeastern frontier, 1750-1820." *William and Mary Quarterly* 46, no. 1 (1989): 3-26.

----------. “The great change begins: Settling the forest of central New York,” *New York History* 76, no. 3 (1995): 265-290.

----------. “The late loyalists: Northern reflections of the early American republic,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 27, no. 1 (2007): 1-34.

February 18 **Land and politics in the nineteenth century**

* Thomas Summerhill, *Harvest of Dissent: Agrarianism in Nineteenth-Century New York*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2005.

Supplementary reading:

Charles E. Brooks, *Frontier Settlement and Market Revolution: The Holland Land Purchase* (1996).

Martin Bruegel, "Unrest: Manorial society and the market in the Hudson Valley, 1780-1850." *Journal of American History* 82, no. 4 (1996): 1393-1424.

Jamie L. Bronstein, *Land reform and working-class experience in Britain and the United States, 1800-1862* (1999).

Eric Foner, *Free soil, free labor, free men: The ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War* (1970).

Susan E. Gray, “Local speculator as confidence man: Mumford Eldred, Jr., and the Michigan land rush,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 10, no. 3 (1990): 383-406.

Roger Hecht, "Rents in the landscape: The anti-rent war in Melville's *Pierre*" *ATQ* 19, no. 1 (2005): 37-50.

Reeve Huston, *Land and freedom: Rural society, popular protest, and party politics in antebellum New York* (2000).

Reeve Huston, "The parties and 'the people': The New York anti-rent wars and the contours of Jacksonian politics." *Journal of the Early Republic* 20, no. 2 (2000): 241-271.
Mark A. Lause, *Young America: Land, labor, and the republican community* (2005).
Andro Linklater, *The Fabric of America* (2008).
Charles W. McCurdy, *The Anti-Rent Era in New York Law and Politics, 1839-1865* (2001).
James W. Oberly, "Gray-haired lobbyists: War of 1812 veterans and the politics of bounty land grants," *Journal of the Early Republic* 5 (1985): 35-58.
Alan Taylor, *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (1995).
John R. Van Atta, " 'A Lawless Rabble': Henry Clay and the Cultural Politics of Squatters' Rights, 1832-1841," *Journal of the Early Republic* 28 (2008): 337-378.
William Wyckoff, *The developer's frontier: The making of the western New York landscape* (1988).

February 25 **Occupying the antebellum "West"**

*Anne F. Hyde, *Empires, Nations, and Families: A History of the North American West, 1800-1860*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011; paperback edition, New York: Ecco, 2012.

Supplementary reading

Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (2008)
Brian DeLay, "Independent Indians and the U.S.-Mexican War," *American Historical Review* 112, no. 1 (2007): 35-68.
Alexandra Harmon, "American Indians and land monopolies in the Gilded Age," *Journal of American History* 90, no. 1 (2003): 106-133.
Andro Linklater, *Measuring America: How the United States was shaped by the greatest land sale in history* (2002).
Rose Stremlau, " 'To domesticate and civilize wild Indians': Allotment and the campaign to reform Indian families, 1875-1887," *Journal of Family History* 30, no. 3 (2005): 265-286.
Elliott West, *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (2000).

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

*Conevery Bolton Valencius, *The health of the country: How American settlers understood themselves and their land*. New York: Basic Books, 2002.

Supplementary reading:

Benjamin Cohen, *Notes from the Ground: Science, Soil, and Society in the American Countryside* (2009).
William Cronon, ed., *Uncommon ground: Rethinking the human place in nature* (1996)

John J. Fry, " 'Good farming – clear thinking – right living': Midwestern farm newspapers, social reform and rural readers in the early 20th century," *Agricultural History* 78 (2004): 34-49.
Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949).
Gregg Mitman, "In search of health: Landscape and disease in American environmental history," *Environmental History* 10 (2005): 184-210.
Steven Stoll, *Larding the lean earth: Soil and society in 19th century America* (2002).
Bonj Szczygiel and Robert Hewitt, "Nineteenth-century medical landscapes: John H. Rauch, Frederick Law Olmsted and the search for salubrity," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 74 (2000): 708-734.
Ian Tyrrell, *True gardens of the gods: Californian-Australian environmental reform, 1860-1930* (1999).
Conevery Bolton Valencius, "Gender and the economy of health on the Santa Fe trail" *Osiris* 19 (2004): 79-92.
---------- . "Mudslides make good history," *Journal of the Early Republic* 24 (2004): 252-259.

March 11 **The "father of environmentalism"**

* Henry David Thoreau, *Walden: Or, Life in the Woods* [1854]; *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition*, ed. Jeffrey S. Cramer. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004.

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"**

* Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Supplementary reading:

Marshall E. Bowen, "Crops, critters, and calamity: The failure of dry farming in Utah's Escalante Desert, 1913-1918." *Agricultural History* 73, no. 1 (1999): 1-26.
Kate Brown, "Gridded Lives: Why Kazakhstan and Montana are nearly the same place," *American Historical Review* 106 (2001): 17-48.
Mark Fiege, *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West* (1999)
Paul W. Gates, "Homesteading in the High Plains," *Agricultural History* 51 (1977): 109-133.
Zeynep K.Hansen and Gary D. Libecap. "The allocation of property rights to land: US land policy and farm failure in the northern Great Plains." *Explorations in Economic History* 41, no. 2 (2004): 103-129.
Gary D. Libecap and Zeynep K. Hansen. " 'Rain follows the plow' and dry-farming doctrine:

The climate information problem and homestead failure in the upper Great Plains, 1890-1925." *Journal of Economic History* 62, no. 1 (2002): 86-120.
Patricia Nelson Limerick, *Something in the soil: Legacies and reckonings in the New West* (2000).
Karen R. Merrill, "Whose home on the range?" *Western Historical Quarterly* 27, no. 4 (1996): 433-451.
David Moon, "In the Russians' Steppes: The Introduction of Russian Wheat on the Great Plains of the United States of America," *Journal of Global History* 3 (2008): 203-225
Jonathan Raban, *Bad land: An American romance* (1996)
Tamara Venit Shelton, *A Squatter's Republic: Land and the Politics of Monopoly in California, 1850-1900* (2013).
Charles F. Wilkinson, *Crossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West* (1993)

April 1 **The family farm**

* Charles Postel, *The Populist vision*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Supplementary reading:

Dona Brown, *Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America*
Brian Q. Cannon, "The best years of their lives? Wives and mothers on western homesteads in the postwar years," *Agricultural History* 74, no. 2 (2000): 451-464.
Richard Edwards, "Changing Perspectives of Homesteading as a Policy of Public Domain Disposal," *Great Plains Quarterly* 29, no. 3 (2009): 179-202.
Mark Friedberger, "The farm family and the inheritance process: Evidence from the Corn Belt, 1870-1950," *Agricultural History* 57 (1983): 1-13.
Harriet Friedmann, "World market, state, and family farm: Social bases of household production in the era of wage labor." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 20 (1978).
Frank Tobias Higbie, "Rural work, household subsistence, and the North American working class: A view from the Midwest," *International Labor and Working Class History* 65 (April 2004): 50-76.
Ronald Jager, *The Fate of Family Farming: Variations on an American Idea* (2004).
Mary Neth, *Preserving the family farm: Women, community and the foundations of agribusiness in the Midwest, 1900-1940* (1995).
John Opie, "Moral Geography in High Plains history," *Geographical Review* 88 (1998): 241-258.
----------, *The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of American Farmland Policy* (1987).
Sonya Salamon, and Ann Mackey Keim. "Landownership and women's power in a midwestern farming community." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41 (1979): 109-119.
Dorothy Schwieder and Deborah Fink, "U.S. prairie and plains women in the 1920s: A comparison of women, family, and environment," *Agricultural History* 73 (1999): 183-200.

Donald Worster, “Transformations of the Earth: Toward an Agroecological Perspective in History,” *Journal of American History* 76 (1990): 1087-1106.
Frank Yoder, “Rethinking Midwestern farm tenure: a cultural perspective,” *Agricultural History* 71 (1997): 457-478.

April 8 **The environment and American history**

* Mark Fiege, *The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012.

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*