



## Ethnohistory

### Ethnohistory

Western Michigan University has brought together an engaged group of scholars working in the field of ethnohistory. Particular areas of expertise include culture contact, colonialism, material analysis, historiography, oral history, gender, historical archaeology, ethnography, tribalization, globalization, and modernization. These topics are not restricted to any particular geographic area nor any particular societal structure. The core of ethnohistory lies in the realization, shared by practitioners, of the benefits obtained through the use of multiple lines of evidence to study history and culture.

Ethnohistorians recognize that documents, archaeological findings, oral histories, and ethnographies can be profitably compared, contrasted, and integrated to elucidate the histories and cultural contexts of groups that have been ignored in conventional historical accounts. Thus, interdisciplinary study is incumbent in ethnohistory. By juxtaposing multiple lines of evidence, the ethnohistorian can at once examine the distant and the local, the general and the particular, bringing human experience into better focus.

### Sample Ethnohistory Courses

- Anthropological Theory
- Anthropology and History
- Archaeology of Gender
- Biography and Material Culture
- Ethnographic Methods
- Historical Archaeology
- Historical Methodologies
- Historiography
- Material Analysis
- Material Culture
- Oral History
- Social Archaeology

### Program Information

The Ethnohistory Certificate is open to students enrolled in a graduate degree program at Western Michigan University. The Certificate requires that students take 15 credit hours of Ethnohistory courses, at least three of which are outside of their home department. Students also will take the Ethnohistory seminar that will be taught every year, alternating between the Departments of History and Anthropology. Students must take the course once in each department.

### Contacts

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## Faculty in Ethnohistory

- **Amos Beyan** (*West Virginia, 1985*)  
Department of History & Africana Studies Program:  
African & African-American History, Colonization,  
Slave Trade
- **José Antônio Brandão** (*York, 1994*)  
Department of History: North American Indian, New  
France, Comparative Colonial, Iroquois
- **Michael Chiarappa** (*Pennsylvania, 1992*)  
Department of History: Folklife Studies, Oral History,  
Maritime, Great Lakes, Pacific Islands
- **William Cremin** (*Southern Illinois, 1978*)  
Department of Anthropology: Archaeology, Great Lakes,  
Culture Contact
- **Nora Faires** (*Pittsburgh, 1981*)  
Department of History: 19th and 20th-Century America,  
Gender, Migration, Race and Ethnicity
- **Bruce Haight** (*Northwestern, 1970*)  
Department of History: West Africa, Islam, Artistic  
Traditions
- **Jon Holtzman** (*Michigan, 1996*)  
Department of Anthropology: Food, Commodities and  
Consumption, History and Memory
- **Catherine Julien** (*California, Berkeley, 1978*)  
Department of History: Inca, Colonial Latin America,  
Historical Archaeology
- **Mitch Kachun** (*Cornell, 1997*)  
Department of History: African-American, Historical  
Memory, Public Commemorations
- **Mustafa Mirzeler** (*Wisconsin, 1999*)  
Department of Comparative Religion: Africa, Oral History
- **Michael Nassaney** (*Massachusetts-Amherst, 1992*)  
Department of Anthropology: Historical  
Archaeology, Colonialism Material Analysis,  
Eastern United States
- **James R. Palmitessa** (*New York University, 1995*)  
Department of History: Late Medieval and Early  
Modern Europe, Everyday Life, Society &  
Religion, Urban History/Culture, Material  
Culture
- **John Saillant** (*Brown, 1989*)  
Department of English & Department of  
History: Early Literature, Colonialism,  
Slavery, African-American diaspora
- **Bilinda Straight** (*Michigan, 1997*)  
Department of Anthropology: Oral History,  
Ethnography, Material Culture, Africa
- **Robert Ulin** (*New School for Social Research, 1980*)  
Department of Anthropology Chair: Europe and  
France, History and Anthropology, theory
- **Allen Zagarell** (*Freie Universität, 1977*)  
Department of Anthropology: Tribal Groups in  
South Asia, Tribalism, Pastoralism