

Indigenous Peoples Day at TCU (October 3, 2016) Resources for Teaching

Historical Documents:

1. [Christopher Columbus's letter on the first voyage \(1493\)](#)
2. [The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America in the Year 1492](#)
by Bartolomé de las Casas
3. [A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies \(1542\)](#)
by Bartolomé de las Casas
4. [In Defense of the Indians](#)
by Bartolomé de las Casas
5. "Columbus Day Set By The President." *New York Times*. October 2, 1934.

Brief article containing the text of President Franklin Roosevelt's proclamation of October 12 as Columbus Day.

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

6. ["Goodbye Columbus": An Open Letter From the AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT of Colorado and Our Allies \(1994\)](#)
7. [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#),
September 13, 2007.

Text of this very important and much discussed UN statement regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

8. [The Literature of Justification](#)

According to this website, "Literature of Justification is an ongoing project by students at Lehigh University that takes as its provocative starting point the "gigantic question" that Washington Irving asks in his 1809 *History of New York* (Book I, chapter v): "What right had the first discoverers of America to land, and take possession of a country, without asking the consent of its inhabitants, or yielding them an adequate compensation for their territory?" The website is divided into the following sections: "About," "Papacy," "New Spain," "Roanoke," "Newfoundland," "Jamestown," "Pennsylvania," and "Supreme Court." Each of these sections are, in turn, subdivided into sections that include an introduction, timeline, essays, bibliography, images, and, in some cases, links to videos.

Recent Writings and Events:

1. [Indigenous Peoples Day, Challenging Colonialism in Albuquerque and Beyond](#)
by Nick Estes, IndianCountryTodaymedianetwork.com, October 9, 2015 (this might take a little longer than normal to load)
2. [OU approves, celebrates first Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
by Brittney Bennett, CherokeePhoenix.org, October 16, 2015

See also, [OU President Boren issues proclamation in support of Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
OUdaily.com, October 6, 2015
3. [Goodbye, Columbus: the tragic history of a holiday](#)
by Thomas DiBacco, WashingtonTimes.com, October 12, 2014
4. [8 Native Americans Reveal the Brutally Honest Truth About Columbus Day](#)
by Jake Horowitz, October 11, 2015
5. [Goodbye Columbus? Celebrating Old Christopher Falling Out of Favor](#)
by Howard Barbanel, HuffingtonPost.com, December 7, 2012
6. [Why These Cities are Dropping 'Columbus Day' for 'Indigenous People's Day'](#)
by Carlmah Townes, Nationofchange.org, October 13, 2015
7. [Brown faculty designates fall holiday as Indigenous People's Day](#)
News from Brown, February 2, 2016

See also, [Statement of Support of Indigenous People's Day](#)
The Brown University Undergraduate Council of Students, February 3, 2016

See also, [At Brown University, Columbus Day is Now Indigenous People's Day](#)
NYTimes.com, February 3, 2016
8. [Happy Columbus Day Said No Native American...Ever](#)
by Yesha Callahan, Clutchmagonline.com, October 2013

This article discusses her view as an African American regarding this holiday but also includes Native American perspectives, particularly what transpired at the 1992, "Our Visions," gathering. The piece includes a reimagined version of 1492 Poem.
9. [Goodbye, Columbus Day](#)
by Patrick J. Buchanan, The AmericanConservative.com, October 14, 2014

10. "BASIL: Anti-Columbus Day"

by Giovanna (janet) capone, et al. *Off Our Backs* 23.3 (March 1993): 17, 23.

Brief editorial by the Bay Area Sicilian and Italian American Lesbians (BASIL) regarding the protests associated with the 500th anniversary of Columbus.

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

11. [Indian Holocaust: A Poem on Columbus Day](#)

by Brian Vallie (Crow/Chippewa Cree), IndianCountryTodaymedianetwork.com, October 13, 2014 (this might take a little longer than normal to load)

12. ["Columbus Day" poem](#)

by Jimmy Durham (Cherokee)

13. "Report to the Nation: Claiming Europe"

by Carter Revard (Osage), *American Indian Quarterly* 6.3/4 (Autumn-Winter 1982): 305-18

Fictional account combining prose and poetry of Native peoples taking Europe and attempting to civilize Europeans. Its opening sentence is, "It may be impossible to civilize the Europeans."

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

14. Articles related to the 500th anniversary observances in Santo Domingo and the Columbus Lighthouse memorial in Santo Domingo:

"Columbus Memorial a Unique Design," *New York Times*, November 15, 1931

"For Columbus Lighthouse, a Fete That Fizzled," *New York Times*, September 25, 1992

"Pope's Mass at Dominican Monument to Columbus," *New York Times*, October 12, 1992

"Dissent Shadows Pope on His Visit," *New York Times*, October 14, 1992

[Mensaje del Santo Padre Juan Pablo II, Grabado en el "Faro a Colón"](#) (Message to Latin America from the «Faro a Colón» (Lighthouse dedicated to Christopher Columbus) (Santo Domingo, October 12, 1992))

Langston can provide pdfs for *New York Times* articles

Scholarly articles:

1. Fogarty, Gerald P. "1892 and 1992: From Celebration of Discovery to Encounter of Cultures." *Catholic Historical Review* 79.4 (October 1993): 621-47.

A comparison of the 400th and 500th anniversaries of Columbus' "discovery" that analyzes "the way in which myths are created—and debunked—"as well as discusses scholarly responsibility with regard to such events.

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

2. Cavaoli, Frank. "Columbus in Contemporary Poetry." *Italian Americana* 19.1 (Winter 2001): 86-106.

Selective discussion of how Columbus has been treated in American poetry.

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3. "Our Visions—The Next 500 Years." *Race, Poverty, & the Environment* 3.3 Special Issue: Native Nations in 1992: 500 Years of Cultural Survival (Fall 1992): 4-5.

Collective statement of 100 Native writers, artists, and wisdom keepers regarding their vision for the next 500 years. The essay gives a relatively succinct assessment of different views of Columbus.

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

4. Scardaville, Michael C. "Quincentennial Scholarship: and the Public: Who Controls the Columbian Legacy?" *The Public Historian* 14.4 (Autumn 1992): 102-14.

Review essay of five books assessing Columbus and his impact and that appeared in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of Columbus

5. Szasz, Margaret Connell. "American Indians and Outsiders: A Crucial Dialogue of the Columbian Quincentenary." *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 42.4 (Autumn 1992): 53-62.

Discussion of issues surrounding the 500th anniversary of Columbus, especially related to non-Natives' perceptions.

Langston can provide a pdf of this article

Books:

1. Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2014.

Dunbar-Ortiz argues (pg. xiii) that “a new periodization of US history is needed that traces the Indigenous experience as opposed to” the standard historical divisions. She also aims “to set aside the rhetoric of race, not because race and racism are unimportant but to emphasize that Native peoples were colonized and deposed of their territories as distinct peoples—hundreds of nations—not as a racial or ethnic group.”

2. Vizenor, Gerald (Anishinaabe). *The Heirs of Columbus*. Hanover, NH: Wesleyan University Press, 1991.

A novel that draws on the Native American figure of the trickster to cast Columbus as a Mayan. In the words of one reviewer (Elizabeth Blair), Vizenor’s novel is “the perfect antidote to the nauseating flurry of international quincentenary festivities planned to honor Christopher Columbus in 1992.”

3. Kubal, Timothy. *Cultural Movements and Collective Memory: Christopher Columbus and the Rewriting of the National Origin Myth*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Extensive treatment of the various ways Columbus has been remembered and commemorated. Chapters include treatments of how social movements have used Columbus to emphasize patriotic, Christian, Native American, Hispanic American, Italian American, and anticolonial concerns.

4. Venables, Robert W. *American Indian History: Five Centuries of Conflict & Coexistence. Volume 1: Conquest of a Continent 1492-1783*. Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishers, 2004.

According to the book’s back cover, Venables, who at the time of publication taught at Cornell University and was the former curator of American Indian history at the Museum of the American Indian, begins this first volume “by comparing and contrasting the different worldviews held by Indian and European nations as reflected in their philosophies and religions.” Venables shows how the Doctrine of Discovery and Papal Bulls shaped European policies of conquest, while also demonstrating how Native peoples developed political philosophies to cope with colonial governments. Venables writes (pg. xv), “The consequences of 1492 involve the entire Western Hemisphere, not just the First Nations lands now known as the United States. The reestablishment of justice is therefore an issue for all First Nations of the Americas.”

5. Mann, Charles C. *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011.

Mann analyzes the impact of Columbus’ voyages within a global and ecological context. He follows new research that argues a “single new world” was formed from the collision of three old worlds—Europe, Asia, and Africa. According to

Mann (pg. xvi), “Born in the sixteenth century from European desires to join the thriving Asian trade sphere, the economic systems for exchange ended up transforming the globe into a single ecological system by the nineteenth system—almost instantly, in biological terms.” His first chapter gives a good discussion of Columbus, while also overviewing some of the subsequent effects of his voyages.

Documentary films and videos:

1. Indigenous Peoples LibGuide (Mary Couts Burnett Library):

<http://libguides.tcu.edu/IndigenousPeople>

2. [*The Canary Effect*](#) is a documentary that looks into the effects that the United States and its policies have had on the Indigenous peoples (Native Americans) who are residents.

It premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and won the Stanley Kubrick Award at the 2006 Traverse City Film Festival (Michael Moore hosts). The movie was directed by Robin Davey and Yellow Thunder Woman, who are both members of LA Based alternative pop group *The Bastard Fairies*.

Delving deeply into the often misunderstood and frequently over looked historic realities of the American Indian, *The Canary Effect* follows the terrifying and horrific abuses instilled upon the Indigenous people of North America, and details the genocidal practices of the US government and its continuing affects on present day Indian country. Featuring interviews with the leading scholars and experts on Indian issues including controversial author Ward Churchill, the film brings together the past and present in a way never before captured so eloquently and boldly on film.

3. [*Columbus Day Legacy*](#) - New Documentary Film Trailer by Bennie Klain
Trailer

Columbus Day Legacy explores quintessential American issues of free speech, tolerance, and ethnic pride against the backdrop of the Columbus Day Parade controversy in Denver, Colorado.

4. [*Chief Oren Lyons on Doctrine of Discovery*](#)

Oren Lyons, scholar, artist, and Onondaga chief, discusses the Doctrine of Discovery. Video is almost 15 minutes in length.

5. [*Oren Lyon's PBS Interview*](#)

Bill Moyer’s interview with Oren Lyons, which aired on PBS on July 3, 1991, regarding his hopes and aspirations for the Onondaga people and all peoples of

the world. The interview is about 55 minutes in length, but appropriate excerpts could be shown in classes. It gives good representation of Native American perspectives.

6. [Walter Echo-Hawk Lecture](#)

Walter Echo-Hawk's presentation at the International Seminar on the Doctrine of Discovery, held on September 20-21, 2012 at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia. Echo-Hawk is a leading Native American (Pawnee/Yakama) legal scholar. His presentation is about one hour in length, but appropriate excerpts could be shown in classes.