

Cherokee Nation History Course

November 6th-7th and 20th-21st, 2004, Rome, Georgia

***Presented by the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah Oklahoma
and the Chieftains Museum / Major Ridge Home, Rome, Georgia***

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The Cherokee Nation and The Chieftains Museum / Major Ridge Home are very pleased to be able to offer an overview course on the history, people, and society of the Cherokee Nation to Northwest Georgia and surrounding areas. This is by no means a comprehensive course – people can spend lifetimes, after all, investigating the rich and complex history of the Cherokee people. Nevertheless, we hope this course will provide some valuable insights and perspectives on a history that is often misrepresented and misunderstood. In the process, we also hope that you will be inspired to learn more, challenge, question, problem solve, and develop your own understandings of Cherokee history and the ways that it relates to your lives, families, and as part of or in proximity to Cherokee people and communities. It is only when we have a good knowledge of our past and where we have been that we can begin to understand ourselves in the present and then lay the groundwork for a strong and prosperous future for our descendants.

“And to fulfill this legacy, we must ask the questions,

Where will we be as a people five, ten, fifty or one hundred years from now?

Do we talk only of ancestors or do we plan for our descendents?

Do we brag about our full blood ancestor or do we brag about our Indian grandchildren?

Do we live in the past or do we focus on the future?

Is being Cherokee a novelty or a way of life?

Is being Cherokee a heritage or a future?

Our ancestors who walked the grounds of this capitol building resoundingly cry: ‘don’t forget the legacy we have passed on.

*‘Don’t let it lapse. Pass it on, stronger and stronger to your children. Let the Cherokee language laugh, speak and sing again. **Let our history be known and discussed.** Live by our wisdom. Don’t let us die as a people. If you do then all of our sacrifice will be for nothing and you will lose those things that fulfill your life.’”*

Principal Chief Chad Smith
State of the Nation Address
September 1, 2001

SATURDAY, November 6th

First Session:

- Introductions and welcome
- **Environmental Scan:** Pre-contact
- Origins and Migrations
- Clans

Second Session:

- **Video:** *Cherokee Culture 1500-1640*
- Video Critique
- Baseline Culture: Government and Social Structure

Lunch Break

Third Session

- Baseline culture: Law and Kinship
- **Environmental Scan:** Early 1700s
- Overview of the 1700s: Disease, Alliances, and Border Wars

Fourth Session

- Cherokee Responses: the Council of 1753
- British Domination and Genocidal Warfare
- **Environmental Scan:** Mid- and Late 1700s
- **Group Exercise:** Who is a Cherokee in the 1700s?
- Colonial Treaties and Land Cessions

Fifth Session:

- Treaty of Hopewell
- Treaty of Holston

SUNDAY, November 7th

First Session:

- Nancy Ward Letter; the Chickamauga Cherokees
- Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, Georgia Compact of 1802
- Additional Sessions from this Era: Doublehead and the Lower Town Chiefs
- Socio-cultural Change 1790-1838

Second Session:

- Summary of Early Laws
- “Voluntary” Removals: The Old Settlers, the Texas Cherokees
- Treaty of 1817
- Treaty of 1828

Lunch Break

Third Session:

- The Georgia Harassment Laws
- **Video:** *The Forced Removal* (clip)
- The Indian Removal Act of 1830
- **Environmental Scan:** Early 1800s
- *Georgia v. Corn Tassels*
- *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*

Fourth Session:

- *Worcester v. Georgia*
- **Video:** *The Forced Removal* (clips continue)
- The Treaty of New Echota
- **Responsive Reading:** Removal era letters

Fifth Session:

- **Video:** *The Trail of Tears*
- Misconceptions and Realities about the Trail of Tears

SATURDAY, November 20th

First Session:

- The social and political climate in 1839
- The Act of Union of 1839
- 1839 Constitution
- 1838 Patent
- **Video:** *The Cherokee Civil War*
- Treaty of 1846

Second Session:

- *Cherokee Nation v. West*
- *United States v. Rogers*
- **Environmental Scan:** Mid-1800s
- The Cherokee Golden Age
- The Keetoowah Society
- Confederate Treaty of 1861

Lunch Break

Third Session:

- The American Civil War
- **Video:** *A Nation Within a Nation...at War*
- 1866 Treaty
- Delaware and Shawnee Agreements

Fourth Session:

- **Environmental Scan:** Late 1800s
- **Video:** *Reconstruction*
- Treaty Questions: *The Cherokee Tobacco* case
- Jurisdictional Questions: Zeke Proctor and the Tragedy of Goingsnake District
- Citizenship Questions: Intruders and Freedmen

Fifth Session:

- The Cherokee Outlet
- **Video:** *Far and Away* (clip)
- **Video:** *Five Alive, Cherokee Outlet*

SUNDAY, November 21st

First Session:

- General Allotment Act/Assimilation Policies
- **Video:** *Indian Territory...How the West Was Lost*

Second Session:

- The Dawes Commission Report
- **Responsive Reading:** Duncan Letters
- Curtis Act
- **Responsive Reading:** Too-Qua-Stee Letter

Lunch Break

Third Session:

- Cherokee Agreement
- Supplemental Agreement
- Five Tribes Act
- Redbird Smith and Keetoowah Resistance
- The Sequoyah Convention
- **Video:** *Indians, Outlaws and Angie Debo*

Fourth Session:

- Land Restriction Acts
- Oklahoma Statehood
- The Dark Ages
- The Indian Reorganization Act
- Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act
- Act of 1946, United Keetoowah Band

Fifth Session:

- Act of 1970, election of the Principal Chief
- 1975 Constitution
- *Harjo v. Kleppe*
- *Muscogee Nation v. Hodel*
- *Ross v. Neff*
- Conclusions and Certificates