

ANTH 320
Spring 2009
TR 4:00-5:50 pm
282 Lillis

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Native North Americans

Non-Indians have long been fascinated with American Indians and their cultures, and for good reason. Many Native American beliefs and practices – both past and present – are aesthetically beautiful, technologically inventive, emotionally gripping, or just plain interesting. Frequently, however, this fascination has led to an oversimplification of the cultural diversity and historical complexity of indigenous societies and cultures, tribal histories, and individual experience. This course introduces the lives of American Indian peoples and tribes and has three related goals.

- * First, this course aims to enhance knowledge of and appreciation for the accomplishments and diversity of these enduring and resurgent indigenous peoples.
- * Second, the course questions the objectified and stereotyped image of “the Indian” by investigating the intellectual and cultural roots of this image in colonial history and EuroAmerican culture.
- * Third, the course provides a conceptual framework drawn from cultural anthropology (meaning-centered and decolonizing) for understanding American Indian societies of North America, specifically, and our world, more generally.

The course reviews information from pre-contact, post-contact, and present-day times for tribes from different geographic and cultural areas of North America. Emphasizing distinct tribal adaptations, over time and across culture areas, this course addresses important topics of the current practice of anthropology among native peoples, the cultural underpinnings of Indian-white interactions, history and identity, and political activism.

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REQUIRED READING:

Readings for the course are drawn from histories, ethnographies, essays, and autobiographical accounts. The books are available in the UO Bookstore. Other readings are available on BlackBoard. Lectures alternate with films and classroom discussions.

BOOKS:

Andrew Garrod and Colleen Larimore, eds. (1997) *First Person, First Peoples*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Peter Nabokov, Ed. (1991) *Native American Testimony*. New York: Penguin Books.

Luke E. Lassiter (1998) *The Power of Kiowa Song*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Severt Young Bear and R.D. Theisz (1994) *Standing in the Light*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

SELECTIONS ON BLACKBOARD:

Robert Berkhofer, "The scientific image of the Indian" in *The White Man's Indian* (1978) New York: Vintage Books, pp. 33-69.

Parris Butler, "Incantation to Dispel New Age Dogma" in *News from Native California* (1999).

Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and other friends" in *Custer Died for Your Sins* (1969) New York: Avon Books, pp. 83-104.

Vine Deloria, "Anthros, Indians, and planetary reality" in *Indians and Anthropologists*, Thomas Biolsi and Larry J. Zimmerman, eds. (1997) Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 209-221.

Wendy Rose, "The great pretenders: further reflections on whitemanhood" in *The State of Native America: Genocide, Colonization and Resistance*, (1992) M. Annette Jaimes, ed. Boston: South End Press, pp. 403-421.

Grades are based on:

- four in-class quizzes (each worth 10% of the final grade, 40% total). The quizzes are designed to test your knowledge of the day-to-day materials of the class. The format will be multiple choice and short answer.
- two 4-5-page essays (each worth 15% of the final grade, 30% total). The essays are designed to give you a chance to critically assess the course readings, and will consist of a description of the main points of the specified readings and an analysis of the authors' perspectives. The format will be further described in class.
- participation in small group discussions (worth 10% of the final grade).
- and a final comprehensive exam (worth 20% of the final grade) - scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, starting at 1 pm. The 2-hour exam will follow a varied format of multiple choice, short answer and essay.

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

March 31 – Course overview and orientation.

April 2 – "More than Bows and Arrows" (film).

Required reading: Peter Nabokov, Native American Testimony, pp. 1-116.

Federal policies

April 7 – U.S. federal Indian policies.

April 9 – "Where the Spirit Lives" (film). **QUIZ #1.**

April 14 – Termination and its effects.

Required reading: Peter Nabokov, Native American Testimony, pp. 117-274.

Anthropologists and other "friends"

April 16 – Indians and anthropologists.

April 21 – "If only I were an Indian" (film). **QUIZ #2.**

April 23 – Discussion.

Required reading: Robert Berkhofer, "The scientific image of the Indian" (pp. 33-69).

Parris Butler, "Incantation to Dispel New Age Dogma" in News from Native California (1999).

Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and other friends" (pp. 83-104) and "Anthros, Indians and planetary reality" (pp. 209-221).

Wendy Rose, "The great pretenders: further reflections on whitemanhood" (pp. 403-421).

Colonial cultures

April 28 – The colonial reigns of the Southwest.

April 30 – The Ghost Dance and the Wounded Knee Massacre. **1ST ESSAY DUE.**

Required reading: Luke Lassiter, The Power of Kiowa Song, pp. 1-115.

May 5 – "I will fight no more forever" (film).

May 7 – Missionaries in the Plateau. **QUIZ #3.**

Required reading: Luke Lassiter, The Power of Kiowa Song, pp. 116-229.

Survival and Revitalization

May 12 – Discussion of Lassiter.

May 14 – "Into the Circle" (film).

May 19 – Discussion of Young Bear and Theisz.

May 21 – "Powwow Highway" (film). **QUIZ #4.**

Required reading: Severt Young Bear and R.D. Theisz, Standing in the Light, pp. 1-179.

Contemporary identity

May 26 – "The empty center"

May 28 – American Indians at the U of O. **2ND ESSAY DUE.**

Required reading: Andrew Garrod and Colleen Larimore, eds. (1997) First Person, First Peoples. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-248.

Conclusions

June 2 – Discussion of Garrod and Larimore.

June 4 – Conclusions.