

Anthropology 3701--North American Native Peoples and Cultures--Spring 2014 SYLLABUS

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Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the indigenous peoples north of Mexico, their traditional cultures, and their present day status and conditions. A comparative survey of the culture areas of North America will include studies of adaptations to the natural environment, interactions among the various groups of peoples, their reactions to European invasion and colonization, as well as an examination of their languages, kinship systems, social structures, economic and political institutions, religion and ideology, in an attempt to identify commonalities as well as differences. Questions of continuity and change will be addressed. Finally, contemporary issues affecting Native North Americans will be considered.

Procedures and requirements:

There is a set of assigned readings to accompany most of the lecture/discussion topics. It is incumbent upon class members to have completed these readings BEFORE the first class session on each new topic. This will enhance understanding of the lectures and facilitate participation in discussion. Not every topic in the textbooks will be covered in class. Likewise, lectures will contain information not to be found in the readings. To put it otherwise, there will be considerable overlap. Lectures and readings should be considered complementary. To a large extent lectures can be viewed as a guide for what to emphasize in the readings and how to interpret them.

NOTE: Each assignment in the Bonvillain text contains a long ethnographic, geographic, and historical description of the culture area, preceded by a typical myth or legend from the area, and followed by at least one case study of a particular group in the area or a glimpse of contemporary issues confronting people of the area. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THESE MATERIALS.**

Examinations will touch on information from both lectures and readings. Thus, to succeed in the course, attending class, keeping up to date in the readings, and participating in discussions (either by asking good questions and making appropriate comments, or, at the very least, by being a good listener) are all necessary. Part of being a good listener, by the way, involves refraining from texting, viewing videos on your laptop during lectures, etc. All cell phones should of course be off. There will be two examinations: an in-class midterm and a final scheduled by the registrar's office. **DO NOT MAKE YOUR END-OF-THE-YEAR DEPARTURE AND TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL YOU KNOW THE THE OFFICIAL DATE OF THE FINAL.** Students will also be asked to submit a short research paper on a specific topic on the last class meeting of the semester. Suggestions for possible topics will be made in class. If students have a special interest they would like to pursue for this assignment that differs from the proposed

topics, they should consult with the instructor--well in advance of the due date. PAPERS ON NON-APPROVED TOPICS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In addition to the requirements stated above, GRADUATE STUDENTS will be asked to write a more substantial research paper of approximately 15-20 pages on a topic related to the course. This topic will be one of their own choosing, but should be discussed with, and approved by the instructor. Additionally, graduate students will be held to a generally higher standard of evaluation than undergraduates.

Texts:

There are two required texts for the course. They are:

Berlo, Janet, and Ruth Phillips. *Native North American Art*. Oxford University Press (1998).

Bonvillain, Nancy. *Native Nations: Cultures and Histories of Native North America*. Prentice-Hall (2001).

Grading:

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Undergraduates

Midterm examination 40%

Research paper 20%

Final examination 40%

Graduate students

Midterm examination 30%

Short research paper 10%

Long research paper 30%

Final examination 30%

In cases where the numerical average is a borderline grade (e.g., B+/A-) contributions to class discussion will be used as a determining factor.

Academic integrity:

This course is covered by the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states "academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code, see:

<http://gwired.gwu.edu~integrity/code.html>. All students should familiarize themselves with the code.

Schedule of Topics and readings:

Week 1

Jan. 14 Introduction to the study of Native North America (lecture)

Jan. 16 The Southwest

Bonvillain, pp. 310-387; Berlo, 37-69

Week 2

Jan. 21 The Southwest, cont'd.

Jan. 23 The Southwest, cont'd.

Week 3

Jan. 28 The Southeast Woodlands and Gulf Coast

Bonvillain, pp. 124-174

Berlo, pp. 71-88

Jan. 30 The Southeast, cont'd.

Week 4

Feb. 4 The Southeast, cont'd.
Feb. 6 The Northeast Woodlands and Great Lakes
Bonvillain, pp. 37-122

Berlo, pp. 88-105

Week 5

Feb. 11 The Northeast, cont'd.
Feb. 13 The Northwest Coast
Bonvillain, pp. 442-491
Berlo, pp. 173-207

Week 6

Feb. 18 The Northwest, cont'd.

Feb. 20 The Northwest, cont'd.

Week 7

Feb. 25 California
Bonvillain, pp. 390-415.

Feb. 27 Midterm examination

Week 8

March 4 The Intermontane Region/The Great Basin
Bonvillain, pp.265-308
Berlo, 130-137

March 6 The Intermontane Region/The Plateau

Spring Break

Week 9

Mar. 18 The Arctic and the Subarctic
Bonvillain, pp. 493-566
Berlo, 139-171

Mar. 20 The Arctic and Subarctic, cont'd.

Week 10

Mar. 25 The Arctic and Subarctic, cont'd.
Mar. 27 The Great Plains
Bonvillain, pp. 177-262
Berlo, pp. 107-130

Week 11

Apr. 1 The Great Plains, cont'd.
Apr. 3 The Great Plains, cont'd.

Week 12

Apr. 8 Languages
Apr. 10 Religion

Week 13

Apr. 15 Historical and contemporary issues
Apr. 17 Historical and contemporary issues

Week 14

Apr. 22 Historical and contemporary issues
Apr. 24 Summation and review

Research papers due in class

Note: Remember, a syllabus is not a contract. Nor is it carved in stone. I reserve the right to make changes to it in the light of unforeseen events or in keeping with perceived student needs. In that regard, some topics may take more time and others less than what is indicated in the syllabus. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

Last, but certainly not least, a belated Happy New Year. Welcome to the course. And here's hoping we spend an enjoyable and profitable semester together.