NAS 100 Syllabus

Fall Semester, 2000
University of Montana
3 Semester Credits

David Beck
Office Hours: NAS 104
Hours: M, Tu 3-4, W 2-3
243-6097

Introduction to Native American Studies
NAS 100H Syllabus
Honors Course

Course description: This is a survey course to acquaint the student with Native American studies by a general overview of Indian history, culture, philosophy and religion. An examination of tribal core cultural values will provide the groundwork for this study. The course will cover these areas within the following thematic fields of study: governance, family, economy, education, environment, history and world view.

Course Objectives

1. The student will have a good general overview of Native America
2. The student will have a basic understanding of historic, cultural, and legal issues which impact Native American communities and individuals in the United States
3. The student will have a basic understanding of the political and legal relationship between the Native American nations and the federal, state and local governments in the United States
4. The student will have a basic understanding of Native American world views and core cultural values

Required Readings


Recommended reading:

Champagne, Duane et al., *Native America: Portrait of the Peoples*. Visible Ink Press, 1993
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Schedule

Week 1, September 5, 7: Introductions and purposes:
   Historical misunderstandings and the place of Native American Studies in Academe

Week 2, September 12, 14: Pre-Columbian
   Jennings Chapter 1-5

Week 3, September 19, 21: Invasion
   Jennings Chapter 6-10

Week 4, September 26, 28: Belief systems: before and after
   Short Essay #1 due September 28

Week 5: October 3, 5: Tribal economies
   Welch

Week 6, October 10, 12: Reservations

Week 7, October 17, 19: "Getting out of the Indian business"
   Child (October 17)
   Midterm Exam October 19

Week 8, October 24, 26: Cultural retention

Week 9, October 31, November 2: Legal issues: the basis of tribal sovereignty

Week 10, November 7, 9: Termination and Displacement

Week 11, November 14, 16: Population and Demography: Relocation
   Silko, Short Essay #2 due November 16

Week 12, November 21, 23: Current issues: Families
   November 23: THANKSGIVING: No Classes

Week 13, November 28, 30: Current issues: Religious Issues
   Term Paper due November 28

Week 14, December 5, 7: Current Issues: Treaty Rights
   Whaley and Bresette
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Week 15, December 12, 14: Current Issues: Self Determination

*Short essay #3 due December 12*

Week 16: Week of December 18: *Final Examination*

**Written Assignments:**

*Short Essays:* 1) Write a 1-2 page analysis (500 words maximum) of a chapter of your choice from the Jennings assignment. 5 points. 2) Write a 4-5 page comparative analysis of the two works of fiction, discussing what we learn about Native society from the books (Welch and Silko). 10 points. 3) Write a 1-2 page analysis of the Whaley and Bresette book. 5 points. All papers must be typed or computer generated, double spaced

*Term Paper Assignment:* Select a topic from the course and research that topic as it relates to a single Indian nation. Approve the topic with the instructor. Develop a series of questions you will ask, and write a 6-8 page paper addressing them. Be sure to include a bibliography and citations.

**Midterm and Final Exams** consist of both essay questions and short answer questions

**Points**

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<th>Attendance/Participation</th>
<th>Midterm Exam</th>
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<td><strong>Grading</strong></td>
<td>20 90-100 A</td>
<td>20 80-89 B</td>
<td>20 70-79 C</td>
<td>20 60-69 D</td>
<td>20 ↓ 60 F</td>
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