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NAS 303.02: Ecological Perspectives of Native Americans

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Ecological Perspectives of Native Americans

NAS 303 (Section 2) Journalism 304
Fall 2000
R. Clow
Office Hours, 11-12 T-TH

This is a one-semester course on cultural ecology designed to acquaint the student with tribal environmental ethics. To do so, we will have to understand Native American tribal views of the physical environment in which they lived and currently live and how their views are tied to acts of production. The course will focus on tribal philosophical views of the land; tribal use of the land, including tribal use of fire, tribal concepts of hunting, tribal horticulture, and tribal rights to continue using resources from the physical environment.

Lecture Topics:

September
5 Introduction
7 Culture and the Physical Environment, Functional Interdependency
12 The Lakota, Bison Hunting, and Starving Times
14 Territoriality and Tenure
19 Territoriality and Tenure (film)
21 Territoriality and Tenure
26 Qualities of Tribal Uses and Views of the Landscape
28 Qualities of Tribal Uses and Views of the Landscape

October
3 Qualities of Tribal Uses and Views of the Landscape
5 Sedna, Keeper of the Game, A Concept
5 Sedna, Keeper of the Game, A Concept
10 Sedna, Keeper of the Game, A Concept
12 Koyukon Bear, Wolf, and Wolverine Ceremonials (film)
17
19 Mid-Term
24 Mid-Term
26 The Keeper Of the Game
31 Disease, A Koyukon Environmental Concept

November
2 The East Cree Hunt
9 The East Cree Hunt
14 The East Cree Hunt (film)
16 Landscape Changes, Cultural Stability
21 Fire in California
28 Pawnee and Fire
30 Pawnee and Fire

December
5 Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act
7 Cultural Ecological Conflict
12 Cultural Ecological Conflict
14 Conclusion

Final Examination: December 21, 2000, 10:10-12:10.
Attendance:

Attendance is not required for this class, but students will be held responsible for all material presented in class, including visual material.

Readings:

The required books and reserve readings for this course are as follows:

First Examination:
- G. Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*.

Second Examination:
- W. Cronon, *Changes in the Land*.
- C. Martin, *Keepers of the Game*.

Grading:

The student's grade will be based upon the mid-term (essay) and final examinations (essay). Each examination will be worth one third of the student's total grade.

The last one third of the student's grade will be earned by writing a scholarly paper and to meet this requirement, citations must be included. One part of this paper will be a story, a story from tribal literature that will be the authority for understanding a specific tribe's environmental ethic in your paper. Include the story as an appendix to your research paper. Since acts of production do not occur in a vacuum, after you have found a story, then place the story in a landscape that the tribal culture that produced the story used. You may need to
include some detail about the tribal culture that used that landscape as well as detail about the landscape itself. The third part of your paper will require you to explain and to Analyze the environmental ethic found in the story, this will require an explanation of the specific tribal environmental beliefs. The fourth part of your paper will be an analysis of the environmental ethic, which you must identify, and how it relates to an act of production in the specific tribal culture. Ideas from class will provide with clues for examining materials and improving your discussion of tribal environmental ethics in your paper.

The goal will be to understand tribal environmental ethics and tribal behavior associated with their understanding of their ethics beliefs in acts of production. Proper citations must be used. Topic sentences are necessary. The theme and thesis must be clearly stated. Tags, transitions from one paragraph to the next, must be used. This paper will allow the student to understand, in a specific setting, how tribal use their physical environment and their beliefs about their physical environments.

Graduate Students:

Graduate students will write a lengthy research paper (20 pages or longer) and will produce a second paper such as an annotated bibliography of their research project. The paper(s) will be problem oriented and original. Graduate Students will discuss their papers with the instructor.

Academic Honest:

The University of Montana expects its students to be academically honest, particularly in regards to plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking someone else's ideas and thoughts and presenting them as one's own. Copyright laws are rigid as it concerns plagiarism, as is the University. Please refer to page 20 of the current University catalog for more specific information regarding penalties for such action. Academic dishonesty in Native American Studies classes will result in a failing grade in the course and disciplinary action consistent with University policies.

Drop/Add Deadline:

October 16, 2000 is the last day to drop this course or any other course at the University.