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NAS 303.02: Ecological Perspectives of Native Americans

Richmond C. Clow

University of Montana - Missoula, clowrl@mso.umt.edu

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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	<u>The Keeper Of the Game</u>
	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.

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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.
- K. Basso, Wisdom Sits in Places.
- Lynn White, Jr., "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis," Science. Reserve Room, Mansfield Library.
- Ellen B. Basso, "The Enemy of Every Tribe: "Bushman" Images in Northern Athapaskan Narratives," American Ethnologist. Reserve Room, Mansfield Library.

Second Examination:

- W. Cronon, Changes in the Land.
- G. Wenzel, Animal Rights, Human Rights.
- C. Martin, Keepers of the Game.
- Kim Bartlett, "A New Ethic or an End to a Way of Life," The Animal Agenda. Reserve Room, Mansfield Library.
- James Mooney, "The Origin of Disease and Medicine," The Sacred Formulas of the Cherokees, Reserve Room, Mansfield Library.
- Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," Science. Reserve Room, Mansfield Library.
- Fikret Berkes, "Common-Property Resource Management and Cree Indian Fisheries in Subarctic Canada," Reserve Reading Room, Mansfield Library.

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 you 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.