PSC 400.01: Native American Sovereignty

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Native American Sovereignty
NAS 400/PSC475 Syllabus

Course description: “An examination of tribal governments from a historical and political perspective. Particular attention is devoted to the issues of tribal sovereignty and tribal-state relations.” There are currently over 550 federally recognized American Indian nations with which the United States maintains government to government relations based on a sovereign status which is both inherent (i.e. pre-dates the coming of Europeans to this hemisphere) and treaty based. This course explores the legal, cultural, historic, and political foundations of American Indian sovereignty in the U.S. in order to develop an understanding of its meaning for the 21st century.

Course Objectives: This course will provide the student with an understanding of tribal sovereignty, including the historical and modern nature of tribal government, impacts of European and American legal systems and thought, and political, economic and cultural developments. Students will also gain an understanding of the concept of sovereignty as it relates to the political, economic and social realms of American Indian societies. Students will be able to articulate these understandings in writing and orally.

Readings—Books to Purchase:


Readings on ERES:


Schedule: Note: Students are expected to complete readings prior to class discussion.

**Historical:**
Week 1, January 27, 29

Week 2, February 3, 5
Read Miller, Introduction and Pevar, Chapter 1-4

Week 3, February 10, 12

Week 4, February 17, 19
Read Pevar Chapter 5-7

Week 5, February 24, 26
Read Wilkins, *Precis 1 due February 26*

**Governance and Economics**
Week 6: March 3, 5

*March 3, Exam I*

Week 7, March 10, 12
Read Clark; *Precis 2 due March 10*

Week 8, March 17, 19
Read Margold, Pevar chapter 8-12

Week 9, March 24, 26
*Trusteeship in Change* Part I & II
*Group 1 Presentation March 24, Group 2 March 26*

Week 10, March 31, April 2 *SPRING BREAK*

Week 11, April 7, 9
*Trusteeship in Change* Part III
*Group 3 Presentation April 7*
Social/Cultural/World
Week 12, April 14, 16

April 14: Exam II
Complete Pevar reading

Week 13, April 21, 23
Presentations 1-15

Week 14 April 28, 30
Complete Miller, Precis 3 due April 28
Presentations 16-30

Week 15, May 5, 7
Read Kipp
Presentations 16-30

Term Paper Due May 5

Final Exam: Tuesday May 12, 8-10

Graded Assignments:
Group Presentations: For Trusteeship in Change, each student will work in a group to present part of the material to the rest of the class, and to lead discussion. All students must turn in typed or computer-generated outlines of the presentations
Precis/Book Analysis: Each student will write 3 précis (1-2 pp.): on Wilkins, Clark and Miller. This consists of a summary and analysis of the book.
Exams consist of both essay questions and short answer questions. Study questions and lists of terms will be distributed before examinations
Term Paper: Select a contemporary issue relating to American Indian sovereignty, conduct research, and write a 7-10 page paper on the topic. Develop a thesis and support it. Use a minimum of 5 sources, no more than one from the Internet. You will make an oral presentation to the class on your topic.

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NOTE: P/NP is not an option in Native American Studies Courses
Please be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, part IV, and follow it.