

American Indian Experience

Ethnic Studies 2570

Ethnic Studies Division
University of Utah
Class Number: 7364

COURSE DESCRIPTION GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This course will teach you about American Indian experience. We begin our class studying the basis of Native American sovereignty in the United States. Then we will explore Native American experience by examining case studies that cover a range of themes and histories. Through these many modules we will gain a broad understanding about Native North American experience. The course will find a foundation in the legal relationship Native Americans possess with the United States and then looks at how that relationship has been historically mandated since the nation's beginnings. From the words of the Constitution, to treaties, and other government actions we will come to understand why the federal government possesses 10,000 employees that deal directly in one way or another with tribal governments and tribal people. As we go forward we will also study a few specific Native American nations.

This course serves as a practical introduction American Indian experience through the study of history and culture. The information in this course is usable for students interested in pursuing variety of careers such as positions in government, law, business administration, teaching, sciences, social sciences, or any number of related fields. At the end of the semester students will have an understanding of the legal, historic, and cultural aspects of Native Americans, American Indian and Alaska Native governments, and their place in North American history, culture, and politics. Thank you for your interest in the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Ascertain a working meaning of Native American sovereignty that can be relayed in conversational language.
2. Learn the basic history around contemporary United States and tribal relations.
3. Articulate the burdens and benefits American Indians possess in North American life.
4. Describe the political relations between tribes, states, and the federal government.
5. Relate American Indian cultural experience to practical information applicable to numerous fields of employment or other scholarly activity.

COURSE STRUCTURE

We conduct this course in person but you will participate in the course using the learning management system called CANVAS

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS ACCESS

If you do not have access to a computer off campus, there are many computer labs on campus you can use to participate in the course. Most public libraries, if open, also have computers with internet access that you can use for free.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

You will need to have an up-to-date browser, operating system, and some additional software on your computer to take this class. Some of the documents in this course will be available to you in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it by going

to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> (Links to an external site.). If you have another piece of software that reads PDFs, that's fine too.

COURSE COMMUNICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them on a regular basis, as these messages will contain important information about upcoming assignments or class concerns.

QUESTIONS

With courses that have online aspects it is normal to have many questions about things that relate to the course, such as clarification about assignments, course materials, or assessments. Please feel free to ask me anything. The buck stops with me.

COURSE POLICY AND REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance

It is essential that you complete and reflect upon readings and view any posted lectures and films.

The course is broken down into a number of weekly modules that consists of readings, videos, and in class lectures. Participation in these modules is essential to your success in this class. If there is anyway I can assist you in your success please reach out and let me know.

This course is composed of lectures based in modules.

Films and video clips: Weekly modules will also consist of films and videos that expand on lectures and readings. While filled with great information, many of these films are strikingly entertaining, others may draw from the reserves of your patience. You will, as part of your grade, fill out viewing guides for two of these films.

Readings: Course readings will be posted in every weekly module. They will include a variety of writings by legal scholars, historians, and social scientists. Along with articles there will be charts and primary source materials too.

Assignments:

2 QIIPs: 20 points apiece

A total of 2 QIIPs worth 40 points total. 1st DUE February 18. 2nd DUE April 8th.

Written Assignment: **Q**uestions **I**nsights **I**nteresting **P**oints **P**roblems. Known in class as the QIIP. The QIIP is explained more further down in the syllabus.

For 2 of the weeks we meet we will have a QIIP due. QIIPs are to be at least 300 words in length but no more than 450 words.

I find the QIIP a useful tool for preparing for the midterm and final. Intermittently, I will respond to yours with notes and comments. I always learn from reading student QIIPs. There will be a folder with QIIP examples, if you think you might like to see one before you write one.

1 Reading the syllabus and Introduction: Worth 5 points toward final grade. DUE BY January 21. After viewing the first in class lecture look at the syllabus for yourself and then send me an acknowledgement that you have given the document a once over. Along with the acknowledgement, tell me these things:

1. What's your major and how far along are you in your studies?
2. How many classes are you enrolled in this term?

2 film guide summaries: Worth 12.5 points apiece. 1st Due by February 25th. 2nd Due by April 15

25 points total

Two of the films we watch this term will come with an assignment to guide your viewing. This will prepare you for the exams, plus they can be interesting movies too.

Final Exam 10 points Due by April 30

Midterm Exam 10 points Due by March 7

The final and midterm exams consists of a set of essay 3 questions where you pick a 2 to answer. Your response will be about 500 words in length and cite class sources, such as readings, lectures, and films. You can use all course materials and the community folder to finish the exam. Exams will be handed out on the planned week of testing and then uploaded by individual students onto Canvas. Students have a given amount a time, say a week, to complete exam.

Museum Visit 10 points

During our third week of class students will visit the on Campus Rio Tinto Natural History Museum and evaluate the representation of Native experience on display. **DUE by February 11.**

Summary of points

40 points 2 QIIPs.

25 points 2 film guides

5 points Introduction and syllabus acknowledgement

10 points Midterm exam

10 Points Museum Visit

10 Final Exam

100 points total

More about the QIIPP!

A **QIIPP** is a brief reflection on all of the week's readings where you identify

Questions (areas where clarification is needed):

Insights (new concepts, framings, or increased awareness):

Interesting Points (unique points or ideas that you would want to build upon in exploring the subject):

Problems (challenges to the author's assumptions, logic, conclusions, values, and so on):

These should cover all the readings for the week but be brief, like 2 typed pages max. No less than about 300 words. No more than 450. You may choose to write

your **QIIPP** in this format if you wish, or in a prose type essay. Examples of **QIIPPs** can be found in a folder on our canvas page.

Submit your **QIIPP to the QIIPP assignment folder** on Canvas.

What grades mean:

Grading Scale

Final grades for the course will be based on your overall percentage as follows:

92% and above → A

90% - 91% → A-

88% - 89% → B+

82% - 87% → B

80% - 81% → B-

78% - 79% → C+

72% - 77% → C

70% - 71% → C-

68% - 69% → D+

62% - 67% → D

60% - 61% → D-

59% and below → E

More Info:

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access

801-581-5020

disability.utah.edu

65 Student Services Building

201 S 1460 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Safety at the U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

801-581-8365

oeo.utah.edu

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Office of the Dean of Students

801-581-7066

deanofstudents.utah.edu

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

Center for Campus Wellness

801-581-7776

wellness.utah.edu

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Academic Misconduct

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes

facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.”

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

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