

IMPACTS OF EUROPEAN CONTACT ON NATIVE AMERICANS
MALS 621-050
Fall 2006

Course Description

This seminar considers the transformations that occurred in Native American cultures as a result of the arrival of Europeans and the actions of their descendants. The course begins by examining the lifeways of indigenous populations immediately prior to the time of European arrival. Then, a series of case studies that focus on post-contact changes will be discussed. These studies consider different native cultures, different kinds of change, and different periods of time. Native American perspectives will also be addressed. The course concludes with an assessment of Native American strategies for cultural and political survival in the contemporary world.

Instructor: Jill Neitzel

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Office: Munroe 107; you can also drop off messages/papers to be put in my mailbox in Munroe 135

Office Hours: Mon 11:00-11:45am; Tue 9:30-11:00am; Wed 11:00-11:45am; Thr 9:30-11:00; Fri 11:00-11:45am; or see me before or after class, e-mail me, or make an appointment

Phone: 831-2802 (this is the Anthropology Dept. number where you can leave messages for me)

Web Page: www.udel.edu/anthro/neitzel/

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Required Textbooks

Brown, Dee – Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West

Cronon, William – Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England

Darian-Smith, Eve – New Capitalists: Law, Politics, and Identity Surrounding Casino Gaming on Native American Land

Griffin-Pierce, Trudy – Native Peoples of the Southwest

Lightfoot, Kent – Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants: The Legacy of Colonial Encounters on the California Frontiers

Mann, Charles – 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus

Nabokov, Peter – Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to Present, 1492-1992

Weatherford, Jack – Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World

White, Richard – The Roots of Dependency: Subsistence, Environment, and Social Change among the Choctaws, Pawnees, and Navajos

Wright, Ronald – Stolen Continents: 500 years of Conquest and Resistance in the Americas

NOTE: Students are NOT required to purchase all of the textbooks. Copies can be obtained on loan from Morris Library, your local library, or with the assistance of Inter-Library Loan. Students should make decisions about which books to purchase based on cost and personal interest.

Assignments

In addition to completing the readings and discussing them actively in class, there will be three written assignments. The first will be a comparison of two popular films that deal with Native Americans in some way. The second will be a report on student visits to the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The third writing will be a final exam essay on a question drawn from the semester's readings and discussions.

Each essay should be approximately 5-7 pages long, double-spaced, type written. Three criteria will be used for assigning grades. First, the student's approach to his or her topic should be creative. Second, the paper should contain insightful discussion, which is well reasoned and substantiated with evidence. Finally, the presentation should be logically organized and well written.

Grades

The semester grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation – 25%

Film comparison – 25%

Museum report – 25%

Final essay – 25%

Schedule

Mon, 9/11 – introduction

Video - Homeland

Mon, 9/18 – 1491

Mon, 9/25 – Stolen Continents

Mon, 10/2 – Changes in the Land

Mon, 10/9 – Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants

Video: Ishi

Mon, 10/16 – Native Peoples of the Southwest

Mon, 10/23 – **DUE**: film comparison

Video – The Return of Navajo Boy

Mon, 10/30 - The Roots of Dependency

Mon, 11/6 – Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

Video – Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations

Mon, 11/13 – Native American Testimony

Mon, 11/20 – **DUE**: museum report

Video – Science or Sacrilege

Mon, 11/25 – New Capitalists

Video – California’s “Lost” Tribes

Mon, 12/4 – Indian Givers

Mon, 12/11 – **DUE**: final essay