Anthropology M19

Celebrating UCLA American Indian Studies: American Indian Studies is for Everyone

Fall 2018 W 10-10:50 Haines Hall 310

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Course Description: Though not initially represented at UCLA’s founding, the University deserves credit for creating one of the first American Indian Studies research centers in 1969. Promoting ground-breaking research and later developing some of the nation’s first and most accomplished academic programs in American Indian and Indigenous Studies, UCLA has been the home of important research and creative work by, for, and about Native American peoples, their languages, cultures, and contemporary societies. This course celebrates the educational mission of UCLA American Indian Studies by surveying a broad swath of representative work by some of the leading scholars in the field who have taught here in the past or are teaching now and providing new research insights about peoples and cultures who are otherwise neglected and not represented accurately in primary or secondary education venues or by the mass media. Readings explore the important contributions made by faculty to better understand Native American history, law, languages, literature, and cultures and contemporary issues. The seminar is designed to allow students to read and discuss a broad range of issues on the basis of faculty research on various topics such as politics, law, literature, violence against Native American women, sacred sites, oral traditions of history and storytelling, language and education. The course both introduces the interdisciplinary field of American Indian Studies and celebrates UCLA’s contribution to it as part of its academic legacy. Discussion Questions will be circulated through the course website and students can think about these and other issues as they read or skim the assigned articles. No previous knowledge is required.

Grading Basis: Grading, as in all Fiat Lux seminars, is S/U. To satisfy course requirements student must attend and discuss the assigned reading(s). Students can miss no more than two classes and need to do a 1-2 page reaction to the assigned readings if they miss more one week. There are otherwise no written assignments (except for make-up work for missed seminars). All readings appear on the course website: https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/18F-ANTHRO19-3
Week One. October 3
American Indian Studies as a Field of Study. Native American Policy. (Duane Champagne (Turtle Mountain Chippewa))

Introducing American Indian Studies. Introducing the course members. Why is it a necessary part of the education of all students?


Week Two. October 10
U.S. Native American Policy. (Duane Champagne (Turtle Mountain Chippewa))

Duane Champagne. 2010. Twentieth-Century Indian Policy. In his Notes from the Center of Turtle Island, pp. 127-146. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.
Duane Champagne. 2010. Twentieth-First-Century Indian Policy. In his Notes from the Center of Turtle Island, pp. 147-162. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.
See also a few additional pages on Indigenous Rights.

Week Three. October 17
Native American Women and Storytelling (Paul Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo))


Week Four. October 24
Law and Political Power (Carole Goldberg)

https://www.uclalawreview.org/president-nixons-indian-law-legacy-a-counterstory/

Week Five. October 31
Native American Literature (Greg Sarris (Pomo))


Week Six. November 7
Native American Oral Histories and Sacred Sites (Peter Nabokov)


Week Seven. November 14
Confronting Genocide as Historical Fact (Benjamin Madley)


Week Eight November 21
Native American Language Revitalization and Storytelling (Paul Kroskrity)


Week Nine. November 28
Gender, Land, Mapping (Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca))

Week Ten. December 5  
Violence Against Indigenous Women. (Shannon Speed (Chickasaw))


Students will discuss these texts at an exploratory and introductory level in order to get a basic understanding of American Indian Studies as an interdisciplinary field and an appreciation of the place of American Indian Studies in the general education of both Native American and non-Native Students. We continuously ask the question, what should we know about Native American people, their cultures, languages, and histories? And how does this knowledge contrast with conventional representations and popular media?