

## ANTH 315 NATIVE PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA

Course syllabus - Winter 2001

**Professor:** Dr. Chris Beekman

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**Office Hours:** MW 1-2pm and by appt.

**Class Location:** 1300 Chemistry

**Class Time:** MWF 12 noon-1pm

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**Discussion section** <sup>02</sup> M 2-3pm B 134 LSA

**times and rooms:** <sup>03</sup> T 11am-12  
noon

<sup>04</sup> T 12 noon- 3415 MH  
1pm

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course introduces anthropological perspectives on the Native Peoples of North America. The Native American populations encountered by the Europeans displayed a bewildering variety of adaptations to their natural and social environments. The Europeans themselves came from a number of different countries with different concepts of cultural relations, which in turn affected how they dealt with the Native Americans. Too often modern society refers to these peoples uniformly as "Indians", without recognition of their diversity and the tenuous links between them. This course will expose students to this diversity, emphasizing both the unique ecological adaptations and the sociopolitical organization of the native groups that lived in today's Canada, the United States, and the northernmost corner of Mexico.

This course is divided into three parts. Since there is no prerequisite for this course, we will begin with a general introduction to the discipline of anthropology, and discuss the approaches that make it unique. We will then spend some time on the question of what it is that we call Native American, and how biological, cultural, self-identification, and legalistic definitions have all been used on different occasions. This will be followed by a brief section focused on the earliest known ecological adaptations of Native Americans, and the diversification that developed over time as they moved into a wide variety of environments. The second part of the course will be organized by geographic region, as we examine the distinctive native groups to be found in North America at the time of European Contact. We do not want to fossilize the Native American, however, and critical changes to native lifeways brought about by contact with the newcomers will be discussed in detail. These will be supplemented by ethnographic studies of specific groups, in order to give a greater sense of time depth. This will make up the central part of the course, but the final third will focus on Indian-White relations since European Contact. This will take us through early contact, the development of an "Indian policy" after the United States

won its independence, and the era of treaties and reservations. The development of Pan-Indianism over the past century will be discussed, and the course will end by focusing on Native American - Anthropologist relations.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

There will be three examinations over the course of the semester, including the final. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade. Exams are to be taken the day they are scheduled, and students cannot expect to miss exams and be able to make them up later at their leisure. Students with special needs should inform the professor as early in the semester as possible.

Two short (4-5 page) papers will be required from students in this class, and each will count for 10% of your grade. The first will be due February 23rd and will require you to compare different Native American groups in their traditional form. The second paper will due March 26th and will involve an aspect of modern Native American life. Details will be given soon.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I enjoy spotting and tracking down plagiarized papers.

**Discussion Sections** - Students should have enrolled in one of the three discussion sections for this course. This will take up one hour/week and will help in clarifying the readings and class lectures. Active discussion, attendance and mini-assignments within these sections will count for 20% of your course grade and earn you that 1 additional credit.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Alice Kehoe. *North American Indians: A Comprehensive Account*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Bruce G. Trigger. 1990. *The Huron: Farmers of the North*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Abraham Rosman and Paula G. Rubel. 1986. *Feasting with Mine Enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

E. Adamson Hoebel. 1977. *The Cheyennes: Indians of the Great Plains*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Russell Means and Marvin J. Wolf. 1997. *Where White Men Fear to Tread: the Autobiography of Russell Means*.

All course textbooks are available through the Shaman’s Drum, on State Street.

**COURSE ORGANIZATION AND READINGS**

Date	Topic	Readings
January 5 (F)	Introduction to Anthropology and the course	
January 8 (M)	Who is an Indian? Biological, Linguistic, Cultural classifications	
January 10 (W)		
January 12 (F)	Anthropology and the peopling of the New World	Kehoe 1-20
January 15 (M)	No class - Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday	
January 17 (W)	Controversies over early environmental adaptations: Indians as environmentalists or cause of extinction?	<b>Map assignment due</b>

January 19 (F)	Native Americans as big game hunters: the Inuit of the Arctic	Kehoe 480-483, 498-519
January 22 (M)		
January 24 (W)	The Cheyenne: the stereotypical hunters on the Great Plains	Hoebel 1-25
January 26 (F)		Hoebel 26-61
January 29 (M)		Hoebel 62-104
January 31 (W)	A more common pattern? The Mandan as seasonal farmers of the northern Plains	Kehoe 287-291, 297-320
February 2 (F)	EXAM	
February 5 (M)	The Huron: farmers of the northeast	Kehoe 224-225, 232-239, 243-262 Trigger 1-49
February 7 (W)		Trigger 80-131
February 9 (F)		Trigger 50-79
February 12 (M)	The exotic stratified society of the Natchez in the deep South	Kehoe 160-161, 178- 202
February 14 (W)		
February 16 (F)	Social competition on the Northwest Coast	Kehoe 429-432, 434-467 Rosman and Rubel 1-68
February 19 (M)		R & R 69-175
February 21 (W)		R & R 176-207
February 23 (F)	Complex societies in North America and our stereotypes of them.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> paper due</b>
February 24- March 4	No class - Spring break	
March 5 (M)	The ritual of agriculture in a marginal environment: Zuñi	Kehoe 103-108, 126-142
March 7 (W)	The new people of the Southwest: the Navajo	Kehoe 142-156
March 9 (F)	EXAM	

March 12 (M)	Early patterns of Native - White Interaction	
March 14 (W)	Enter the Bureau: The long era of Treaties, Removal, War, and Reservations	Begin Means/Wolf
March 16 (F)		Means/Wolf
March 19 (M)	Reservations, Reorganization, Termination	Means/Wolf
March 21 (W)	Ambiguous Native - White Relationships in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Means/Wolf
March 23 (F)		Means/Wolf
March 26 (M)		Means/Wolf. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> paper due</b>
March 28 (W)	Revitalization Movements and the beginnings of Pan-Indianism	Means/Wolf, Kehoe 328-335
March 30 (F)	Pan-Indianism through Christianity - the Native American Church	Means/Wolf, Kehoe 335-339
April 2 (M)	The Powwow	Means/Wolf
April 4 (W)	Native activism and the American Indian Movement	Means/Wolf
April 6 (F)		Means/Wolf
April 9 (M)	The Arts as another form of activism	Means/Wolf
April 11 (W)	The changing relationship between Native Peoples and Anthropologists	Means/Wolf
April 13 (F)	Native Peoples and Archaeology	Means/Wolf
April 16 (M)	catch-up and REVIEW	
April 26 (Th)	FINAL EXAM	