

University of New Mexico
American Studies 252.001
Native American Studies 252.001
Spring 1998
M/W 2:30-3:45
Mitchell Hall 110

The Native American Experience

James Treat, Assistant Professor
Office: Ortega Hall 310
Office hours: M/W 4:00-5:00
Office phone: 277-4557
E-mail: treaty@unm.edu

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of Native American history, culture and contemporary issues. Students will gain a basic understanding of the continuity and innovation that has marked Native American survival and of the diversity and complexity that characterizes Native American life today. We will be reading a wide range of literature by and about Native Americans including historical documents, interpretive essays, fiction, and poetry. Class discussions will be supplemented by guest speakers on selected topics and by films and other audiovisual presentations.

Course Readings

These texts are available at the UNM Bookstore and are also on two-hour closed reserve at the Reserve Desk in Zimmerman Library:

Albert L. Hurtado and Peter Iverson (eds.), Major Problems in American Indian History (Lexington, MA: D. C. Heath, 1994).

Joseph Bruchac (ed.), Returning the Gift: Poetry and Prose from the First North American Native Writers' Festival (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1994).

Louis Owens, Nightland (New York, NY: Penguin, 1996).

Course Requirements

Course grades will be determined according to a grade contract system. Requirements for each of the three available grade contracts are as follows. Contracts will be signed on February 11.

C-range/Pass Contract

Student must earn credit for the equivalent of twelve weekly response essays. The fourteen assigned response essays are due at the Monday class meetings, as indicated on the course schedule, and essays that must be rewritten or that are submitted late are only eligible for half credit. These essays must offer a critical response to the assigned readings and must be 1-2 pages in length (typed, double-spaced) with an original title.

Student must also complete one of the research workshops offered by Zimmerman Library OR one of the study strategies workshops offered by the Center for Academic Program Support. This requirement must be completed by March 25.

B-range Contract

In addition to completing the requirements for the C-range contract, student must take and pass the midterm and final exams. Both exams will consist of identifications and short essay questions based on key terms taken from assigned readings and class presentations. The midterm exam is one hour long and covers the first half of the semester; the final exam is two hours long and covers the entire semester.

A-range Contract

In addition to completing the requirements for the C-range and B-range contracts, student must submit a research paper on a contemporary issue involving Native Americans. This paper must be 9-11 pages in length (typed, double-spaced) with an original title and bibliography. A one-page topic proposal is due in class on February 25, and the research paper is due in class on April 29.

Course Schedule

January 21

Course Introductions

January 26, 28

Indian Self-Determination and Sovereignty in Contemporary America

Hurtado preface, chap. 14

Bruchac pp. xvii, xxiii, 14, 59, 170, 281

Response Paper due Monday, January 26

February 2, 4

Interpreting the Indian Past

Hurtado chap. 1

Bruchac pp. 15, 117, 178, 285, 324

Response Paper due Monday, February 2

February 9, 11

Indians and Europeans Meet

Hurtado chap. 2

Bruchac pp. 23, 38, 91, 243, 297

Response Paper due Monday, February 9

Grade Contract due Wednesday, February 11

February 16, 18

Indians, Religion, and Empire in Colonial Times

Hurtado chap. 3

Bruchac pp. 12, 69, 79, 86, 261, 263, 265, 338

Response Paper due Monday, February 16

February 23, 25

Fur Trade, Empire, and Indians

Hurtado chap. 4

Bruchac pp. 19, 73, 78, 165, 233, 276, 299

Response Paper due Monday, February 23

Topic Proposal due Wednesday, February 25

March 2, 4

New Nations, New Boundaries: Indians in the Revolutionary Era

Hurtado chap. 5

Bruchac pp. 68, 97, 100, 101, 134, 321

Response Paper due Monday, March 2

March 9, 11

Indian Removal: The Dilemma of Indian Policy in the Early Republic

Hurtado chap. 6

Bruchac pp. 13, 57, 80, 120, 246

Response Paper due Monday, March 9

Midterm Exam on Wednesday, March 11

March 16, 18

Spring Break

March 23, 25

Indian Life on the Plains Before 1860

Hurtado chap. 7, photograph essay

Bruchac pp. 33, 115, 150, 163, 226

Response Paper due Monday, March 23

Workshop Certification due Wednesday, March 25

March 30, April 1

Indians in the Far West

Hurtado chap. 8

Bruchac pp. 118, 131, 240, 241, 254, 300, 303

Response Paper due Monday, March 30

April 6, 8

War and Peace, 1851-1886

Hurtado chap. 9

Bruchac pp. 1, 42, 102, 124, 193, 278, 288

Response Paper due Monday, April 6

April 13, 15

Making the Indian at Home in America, 1870-1920

Hurtado chap. 10

Bruchac pp. 6, 95, 126, 268, 330

Response Paper due Monday, April 13

April 20, 22

New Communities, New Identities, 1890-1920

Hurtado chap. 11

Bruchac pp. 5, 62, 290, 295, 314

Response Paper due Monday, April 20

April 27, 29

The Indian New Deal

Hurtado chap. 12

Bruchac pp. 182, 184, 188, 219, 340, 341

Response Paper due Monday, April 27

Research Paper due Wednesday, April 29

May 4, 6

Inclusion and Assimilation: World War II to Relocation

Hurtado chap. 13

Bruchac pp. 11, 30, 45, 49, 83, 185, 206, 247

Owens

Response Paper due Monday, May 4

Final Exam on Wednesday, May 13, 3-5 p.m. at Mitchell Hall 110

Academic Integrity

The American Studies faculty has adopted a formal policy on academic integrity, which is based on the "Policy on Academic Dishonesty" adopted by the University President:

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

I will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about academic and professional ethics, either during class or in an office appointment.

Special Accommodations

Please notify me as soon as possible if you experience any personal circumstances that might affect your participation in this course: medical conditions, physical limitations, learning disabilities, academic problems, emotional crises, family difficulties, or religious obligations. I will be happy to make reasonable accommodations when appropriate, provided that you notify me in a timely fashion. All personal information will be kept in strict confidentiality. Several important campus offices that you may find helpful are listed below:

Center for Academic Program Support
Zimmerman Library third floor, 277-4560

Learning Support Services
Zimmerman Library 339, 277-8291

Mental Health Service
Student Health Center, 277-4537

Disabled Student Services
Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506

Agora Crisis Center
Student Union Building basement, 277-3013