

University of New Mexico
American Studies 550.001
Fall 1997, Wed. 1:00-3:30
Ortega Hall 313

Theories and Methods in Native American Studies

James Treat, Assistant Professor
Office Hours: T/Th 3:30-4:30
Office: Ortega Hall 310, 277-4557

Course Description

This graduate-level course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the field and a basic survey of some current theoretical and methodological approaches. We begin by considering Native American Studies as an emerging academic discipline and by evaluating the widespread emphasis on issues of community and representation. We then explore the development of Native American Studies scholarship within the context of Western academic traditions and institutions by extending this discussion to a focused study of themes in historiography (worldview, interpretation, narrative) and criticism (photography, ethnography, autobiography). We test these theories and methods by examining the practice of historiography and criticism in recent scholarship on gender (feminism, sexuality, religion) in Native American Studies.

This course is organized as a reading-intensive seminar; participants present and discuss a number of required and collateral texts, including nine books on the American Culture Studies reading list. Seminar participants also engage in topical research projects, submitting an annotated bibliography at the last class meeting. The course concludes with a day-long research caucus open to the public, where students present and discuss their findings in a panel discussion format.

Students who pass the course will possess a basic understanding of key interpretive approaches and research methods currently used by scholars working in Native American Studies, and they will have gained practical experience in reading critically, making oral presentations, conducting academic research, collaborating with other scholars, and writing book reviews and bibliographic essays.

Course Texts

These texts are available at the UNM Bookstore (except Public Historian, which we will order directly from the publisher) and are also on two-hour closed reserve at the Reserve Desk in Zimmerman Library.

N. Scott Momaday, The Way to Rainy Mountain (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1969).

Calvin Martin (ed.), The American Indian and the Problem of History (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1987).

Jennifer S. H. Brown and Elizabeth Vibert (eds.), Reading Beyond Words: Contexts for Native History (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1996).

Clara Sue Kidwell and Ann Marie Plane (eds.), "Representing Native American History," special issue of Public Historian 18, no. 4 (1996).

Ira Jacknis (ed.), "The Shadow Catcher: The Uses of Native American Photography," special issue of American Indian Culture and Research Journal 20, no. 3 (1996).

Greg Sarris, Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993).

Arnold Krupat, For Those Who Come After: A Study of Native American Autobiography (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1985).

Nancy Shoemaker (ed.), Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women (New York, NY: Routledge, 1995).

Will Roscoe, The Zuni Man-Woman (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1991).

Michael Harkin and Sergei Kan (eds.), "Native American Women's Responses to Christianity," special issue of Ethnohistory 43, no. 4 (1996).

Course Requirements

Class participation and course assignments will be graded on a point system. Assignments submitted after the due date will be downgraded the equivalent of one letter grade per day.

Class Participation (preparation, attendance, discussion)	30 points
Collateral Text Review/Presentation #1 (in-class)	15 points
Collateral Text Review/Presentation #2 (in-class)	15 points
Research Proposal (due October 1)	5 points
Research Bibliography (due December 10)	15 points
Research Essay/Presentation (December 15)	20 points

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A range	90-100 points
B range	80-89 points
C range	70-79 points
D range	60-69 points

Course Schedule

Collateral texts are on one-day closed reserve at the Reserve Desk in Zimmerman Library (except where otherwise indicated); most of them are also available for purchase at the Maxwell Museum Store in the Anthropology Building (inquire at the cashier).

Books marked with an asterisk are included on the current American Culture Studies reading list. Class will not meet on November 26, the Wednesday before the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Introductions (August 27)

Native American Studies: Community and Representation (September 3)

Momaday, N. Scott. The Way to Rainy Mountain. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1969.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (September 10)

Ortiz, Alfonso. The Tewa World: Space, Time, Being, and Becoming in a Pueblo Society. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1969.

Silko, Leslie Marmon. Storyteller. New York, NY: Seaver Books, 1981.

Vizenor, Gerald. The People Named the Chippewa: Narrative Histories. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.

Historiography I: Worldview (September 10)

Martin, Calvin (ed.). The American Indian and the Problem of History. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (September 17)

*Basso, Keith H. Portraits of "The Whiteman": Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols among the Western Apache. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1979.

*Deloria, Vine, Jr. God Is Red: A Native View of Religion, 2nd ed. Golden, CO: North American Press, 1992.

Sioui, Georges E. For an Amerindian Autohistory: An Essay on the Foundation of a Social Ethic. Montreal, PQ: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1992.

Historiography II: Interpretation (September 17)

Brown, Jennifer S. H., and Elizabeth Vibert (eds.). Reading Beyond Words: Contexts for Native History. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1996.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (September 24)

*Cronon, William. Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England. New York, NY: Hill and Wang, 1983.

*Sando, Joe S. Pueblo Nations: Eight Centuries of Pueblo Indian History. Santa Fe, NM: Clear Light, 1992.

*Forbes, Jack D. Africans and Native Americans: The Language of Race and the Evolution of Red-Black Peoples, 2nd ed. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1993.

Historiography III: Narrative (September 24)

Kidwell, Clara Sue, and Ann Marie Plane (eds.). "Representing Native American History." Special issue of Public Historian 18, no. 4 (1996).

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (October 1)

Faris, James C. The Nightway: A History and a History of Documentation of a Navajo Ceremonial. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1990.

Berlo, Janet Catherine (ed.). The Early Years of Native American Art History: The Politics of Scholarship and Collecting. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1992.

Morris, Rosalind C. New Worlds from Fragments: Film, Ethnography, and the Representation of Northwest Coast Cultures. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1994.

Historiography IV: Synthesis (October 1)

Research Proposal due

Criticism I: Photography (October 8)

Jacknis, Ira (ed.). "The Shadow Catcher: The Uses of Native American Photography." Special issue of American Indian Culture and Research Journal 20, no. 3 (1996).

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (October 15)

Fleming, Paula Richardson, and Judith Lynn Luskey. Grand Endeavors of American Indian Photography. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1993.
[**Fine Arts Library**]

Bush, Alfred L., and Lee Clark Mitchell. The Photograph and the American Indian. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994.
[**Fine Arts Library**]

Dilworth, Leah. Imagining Indians in the Southwest: Persistent Visions of a Primitive Past. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996.

Criticism II: Ethnography (October 15)

*Sarris, Greg. Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (October 22)

Krupat, Arnold. Ethnocriticism: Ethnography, History, Literature. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1992.

Owens, Louis. Other Destinies: Understanding the American Indian Novel. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

Warrior, Robert Allen. Tribal Secrets: Recovering American Indian Intellectual Traditions. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1995.

Criticism III: Autobiography (October 22)

Krupat, Arnold. For Those Who Come After: A Study of Native American Autobiography. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1985.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (October 29)

Bataille, Gretchen M., and Kathleen Mullen Sands. American Indian Women: Telling Their Lives. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1984.

Brumble, H. David, III. American Indian Autobiography. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1988.

[**Center for Southwest Research**]

Wong, Hertha Dawn. Sending My Heart Back Across the Years: Tradition and Innovation in Native American Autobiography. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Criticism IV: Synthesis (October 29)

Gender I: Feminism (November 5)

Shoemaker, Nancy (ed.). Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women. New York, NY: Routledge, 1995.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (November 12)

*Allen, Paula Gunn. The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Texts, 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1992.

Emberley, Julia V. Thresholds of Difference: Feminist Critique, Native Women's Writings, Postcolonial Theory. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press, 1993.

Trask, Haunani-Kay. From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 1993.

Gender II: Sexuality (November 12)

*Roscoe, Will. The Zuni Man-Woman. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1991.

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (November 19)

Williams, Walter L. The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1986.

Brant, Beth. Writing as Witness: Essay and Talk. Toronto, ON: Women's Press, 1994.

Trexler, Richard C. Sex and Conquest: Gendered Violence, Political Order, and the European Conquest of the Americas. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1995.

Gender III: Religion (November 19)

Harkin, Michael, and Sergei Kan (eds.). "Native American Women's Responses to Christianity." Special issue of Ethnohistory 43, no. 4 (1996).

Collateral Text Reviews due

Collateral Texts (December 3)

*Gutierrez, Ramon A. When Jesus Came, The Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991.

Devens, Carol. Countering Colonization: Native American Women and Great Lakes Missions, 1630-1900. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1992.

Kidwell, Clara Sue. Choctaws and Missionaries in Mississippi, 1818-1918. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.

Gender IV: Synthesis (December 3)

Conclusions (December 10)

Research Bibliography due

Caucus (MONDAY, December 15)

Research Essay due

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:

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