

Anthropology 391 (31355)

The Politics and Conditions of Indigeneity

Fall 2012

Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin
Thursday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, SAC room 5.124

Professor Circe Sturm

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the history, politics and conditions of indigenous people throughout the world. One organizing theme of the course will be the ongoing relationships between indigenous people and their respective settler-states, relationships that have been characterized by equal parts continuity and change. Though our primary focus will be on Anglophone indigenous peoples in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, we will also bring in other examples from around the globe when relevant. Our goal is to understand how indigeneity, as both a theoretical concept and a lived experience, intersects with ideas about sovereignty, citizenship, race, culture, gender, nationalism, colonialism and authenticity. Students will be exposed to a range of voices, including native and non-Native writers, scholars and activists. Course content will cover key issues and topics critical to indigenous communities, including defining the indigenous and the Fourth World; comparative histories of colonialism; the various forms of legal inclusion and exclusion in the politics of indigenous people and their settler states; the relationship between sovereignty and citizenship; the politics of indigenous political recognition and identification; and the image of the “native other” as it is appropriated and understood by settler-states.

Requirements

- 1) Weekly notes on the required reading (MAXIMUM 2 pages, single-spaced) that include a brief summary of the main points along with a **constructive, critical appraisal**. These reading notes are due in class on the day of the discussion. **No late notes will be accepted**, but each student may skip two sets of notes over the semester.
- 2) Each student will lead at least one classroom discussion, for which some background reading is strongly recommended. The student leader must circulate copies of their reading notes to the rest of the class and provide a handout of their “talking points.”
- 3) Students will prepare one research paper (20-30 pages in length), the due date of which is noted in the body of the syllabus.

You will be evaluated on the basis of your weekly reading notes (35%); the final research paper (35%); and active participation in classroom presentations and discussions (30%). This means that readings are absolutely mandatory. Since this is a seminar, students must be prepared to exchange ideas and to respectfully engage one another in the classroom setting.

Required Readings

Books

The following books have been ordered through the campus bookstore:

1. Alexie, Sherman (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene). 2012. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown, and Co.
2. Barker, Joanne (Lenape). 2011. *Native Acts: Law, Recognition and Cultural Authenticity*. Durham: Duke University Press.
3. Cattelino, Jessica. 2008. *High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming, Sovereignty, and the Social Meanings of Casino Wealth*. Durham: Duke University Press.
4. Deloria, Vine, Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux) 1969. *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
5. Klopotek, Brian. (Choctaw). 2011. *Recognition Odysseys: Indigeneity, Race and Federal Tribal Recognition Policy in Three Louisiana Indian Communities*. Durham: Duke University Press.
6. Miles, Tiya and Sharon Holland (eds.). 2006. *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country*, Durham: Duke University Press.
7. Niezen, Ronald. 2003. *The Origins of Indigenism: Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
8. Smith, Linda Tuhiwai (Maori). 1999. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London: Zed Books.

In addition to these books, the required reading for the course will also include a selection of shorter works (articles and chapters) that will be made available to you on Blackboard and/or in electronic reserves.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss the necessary accommodations to ensure your full participation in the class and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

*** I reserve the right to change or amend the course syllabus as necessary, primarily due to any unforeseen circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester. However, any changes in the syllabus should not adversely affect your grade or your workload.

Course Schedule

Aug. 30 **Introductions**

Sept. 6 **Who and What is “Indigenous?” Framing the Debates.**

Required Reading:

- (1.) Niezen, Ronald. 2003. *The Origins of Indigenism: Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*, Berkeley: University of California Press, All.
- (2.) Kuper, Adam. 2003. The Return of the Native. *Current Anthropology* 44 (3): 389-402.
- (3.) Asch, Michael and Colin Samson, et al. 2004. On the Return of the Native, *Current Anthropology* 45 (2): 261-268; and 2006 More on the Return of the Native, *Current Anthropology* 47 (1): 145-149.
- (4.) Bowen, John R. 2000. Should We Have a Universal Concept of “Indigenous” People? Ethnicity and Essentialism in the 21st Century. *Anthropology Today* 16 (4): 12-16.

13 **Colonialism/Settler Colonialism**

Required Reading:

- (1.) O’Brien, Jean M. (White Earth Anishinaabe). 2010. *Firsting and Lasting*. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction, pp. xi-xxvi.
- (2.) Stoler, Ann. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*, Berkeley: University of California Press pp. 1-40.
- (3.) Wolfe, Patrick. 2006. “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native.” *Journal of Genocide Research* 8 (4): pp. 387-409.
- (4.) Wolfe, Patrick. 2011. “Race and the Trace of History.” In *Studies in Settler Colonialism*, New York: Palgrave, pp. 272-296.
- (5.) Barker, Joanne (Lenape), as Tequila Sovereign blogger. “Why ‘Settler Colonialism’ Isn’t Exactly Right”, 13/03/11; “More Musings on Why ‘Settler Colonialism’ Doesn’t Work (For Me)”, 15/03/2011; “Reflections on the UCLA School of Law: Critical Race Studies Program; Race & Sovereignty Symposium.” See links below.

<http://tequilasovereign.blogspot.com/2011/03/more-musings-on-why-settler-colonialism.html>

<http://tequilasovereign.blogspot.com/2011/03/why-settler-colonialism-isnt-exactly.html>

<http://tequilasovereign.blogspot.com/2011/04/reflections.html>

<http://tequilasovereign.blogspot.com/2011/04/settler-what.html>

20 **Indians and Anthropologists**

Required Reading:

- (1.) Deloria Jr., Vine (Standing Rock Sioux), 1969. *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, All.
- (2.) Thomas, David Hurst. 2000. *Skull Wars: Kennewick Man, Archeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity*, New York: Basic Books, pp. 52-121.
- (3.) Deloria Jr., Vine (Standing Rock Sioux), 1997. *Anthros, Indians, and Planetary Reality*. In *Indians and Anthropologists: Vine Deloria Jr.*

and the Critique of Anthropology, Thomas Biolsi and Larry Zimmerman (eds.), Tuscon: University of Arizona Press, conclusion.

- 27 **Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Autonomy**
Required Reading:
(1.) Barker, Joanne (Lenape) (ed). 2005. *Sovereignty Matters: Locations of Contestation and Possibility in Indigenous Struggles for Self-Determination*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, pp. 1-50.
(2.) Bruyneel, Kevin. 2007. *The Third Space of Sovereignty: The Postcolonial Politics of U.S. Indigenous Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. xi-25, 97-121, and 171-230.
(3.) Rifkin, Mark. 2009. "Indigenizing Agamben: Rethinking Sovereignty in Light of the 'Peculiar' Status of Native Peoples." *Cultural Critique* 72 (Fall): 88-124.
- Oct. 4 **The "Conditions" of Cultural Authenticity**
Required Reading:
(1.) Povinelli, Elizabeth. 2002. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 1-69, 153-185.
(2.) Barker, Joanne (Lenape). 2011. *Native Acts: Law, Recognition and Cultural Authenticity*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 1-97, 217-228.
*****Research Paper Topic Due*****
- 11 **The "Conditions" of Poverty**
Required Reading:
(1.) Cattellino, Jessica. 2008. *High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming, Sovereignty, and the Social Meanings of Casino Wealth*, Durham: Duke University Press, All.
(2.) Cramer, Rene. 2005. *Cash, Color, and Colonialism: The Politics of Tribal Acknowledgement*, Norman: University of Oklahoma, Press, chapter 8 and conclusion, pp. 138-168.
- 18 **The "Conditions" of Political Recognition and Citizenship**
Required Reading:
(1.) Klopotek, Brian (Choctaw). 2011. *Recognition Odysseys: Indigeneity, Race and Federal Tribal Recognition Policy in Three Louisiana Indian Communities*. Durham: Duke University Press, All.
(2.) Simpson, Audra (Kahnawake Mohawk) *Paths Towards a Mohawk Nation*. In Ivison, Duncan, Paul Patton, Will Sanders. 2000. *Political Theory and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 6.
(3.) Kauanui, Kehaulani (Kanaka Maole). 2005. *Precarious Positions: Native Hawaiians and US Federal Recognition*. *Contemporary Pacific* 17 (1): 1-27.
- 25 **Race/Indigeneity/Whiteness**
Required Reading:
(1.) Harris, Cheryl. 1993. *Whiteness as Property*. *Harvard Law Review* 106: 1707-1791.
(2.) Moreton-Robinson, Aileen (Geonpul). 2004. "Whiteness, Epistemology, and Indigenous Representation." In *Whitening Race:*

Essays in Social and Cultural Criticism. Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, Ch. 6, pp. 75-88

- (3.) Moreton-Robinson, Aileen (Geonpul). 2002. "Introduction: Talkin' The Talk." In *Talkin' Up to the White Woman: Indigenous Women and Feminism.* St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, pp. xv-xxv.
- (4.) McIntosh, Peggy. 1988. *White Privilege And Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies,* a.k.a. "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." In *Critical White Studies: Looking Behind the Mirror.* Richard Delgado and Jean Stefanic (eds.). 1997. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, pp. 291-299.
- (5.) Sturm, Circe. 2011. *Becoming Indian: The Struggle over Cherokee Identity in the 21st Century.* Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research Press, pp. 47-63, 165-192.

One-page Abstract and Working Bibliography Due

Nov. 1

Race/Indigeneity/Blackness

Required Reading:

- (1.) Miles, Tiya and Sharon Holland. 2006. *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country,* Durham: Duke University Press, All.
- (2.) Anderson, Mark. 2007. When Afro Becomes (like) Indigenous: Garifuna and Indigenous Politics in Honduras. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 12 (2): 384-413.
- (3.) Sturm, Circe. 2012. *Old Struggles in New Times: Cherokee Freedmen and the Fight for Tribal Citizenship.* Unpublished working paper.

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Indigenous Feminisms, Gender, and Sexuality

- (1.) Rifkin, Mark. 2011. *When Did Indians Become Straight? Kinship, the History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 181-232.
- (2.) Morgenson, Scott Lauria. 2011. *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-54.
- (3.) Simpson, Audra. (Kahnawake Mohawk) 2009. "Captivating Eunice: Membership, Colonialism, and Gendered Citizenships of Grief." *Wicazo Sa Review* 24 (2): 105-129.
- (4.) Hokowithu, Brendan. (Maori). 2004. Tackling Maori Masculinity: A Colonial Genealogy of Savagery and Sport. *The Contemporary Pacific* 16 (2): 259-284.
- (5.) Kauanui, Kehaulani (Kanake Maole). 2008. Native Hawaiian Decolonization and the Politics of Gender. *American Quarterly* 60 (2): 281-7.
- (6.) Millon, Dian (Tanana Athabascan). 2009. Felt Theory: An Indigenous Feminist Approach to Affect and History. *Wicazo Sa Review* 24 (2): 53-76.

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Decolonizing Methodologies

Required Reading:

- (1.) Smith, Linda Tuhiwai (Maori). 1999. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples.* London: Zed Books. All.

(2.) Garrouette, Eva M. (Cherokee). 2003. *Real Indians: Identity and the Survival of Native America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 113-152.

22 **Fall Break—NO CLASS**

29 **Narratives of “Survivance”**

(1.) Alexie, Sherman (Spokane/Coeur d’Alene). 2012. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown, and Co., All.

(2.) Vizenor, Gerald (White Earth Anishinaabe). 2008. *Aesthetics of Survivance: Literary Theory and Practice*. In *Survivance: Narratives of Native Presence*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, pp. 1-24.

Dec. 6 **Critical Reassessments**

*****Individual Research Project Presentations Due in Class*****

Dec. 10 *****Final Research Paper Due by 5:00 p.m. in Faculty Departmental Mailbox, SAC 4.102*****