

Native American Representations
UW American Indian Studies: Special Topics 450(44281)
Fall 2007

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 - 11:50 AM
318 Education Building

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Office hours: Mondays 8:30 to 10:30 and by appointment

Course Overview: This course addresses the historic, social and political background for conventional American Indian representations such as the environmental Indian, the sexualized Indian, the stoic Indian, and related "clusters" of popular culture icons. Oral history, biography, art, ethnographic texts, film, and scholarly analysis are mobilized as varying types of evidence for prevailing trends in the visual, verbal and multimedia presentations of American Indians. Indigenous knowledge systems are highlighted as well as varying ideas of gender and power. Native American women's life histories and perspectives will be emphasized.

Required texts:

Basso, Keith H. Portraits of "the Whiteman": Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols Among the Western Apache. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1979. ISBN: 0-521-29593-9

Deloria, Barbara, Kristen Foehner and Sam Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason: The Vine Deloria, Jr., Reader. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing. 1999. ISBN: 1-55591-430-6

Lomawaima, K. Tsianina. 1994. They Called It Prarie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1994. ISBN: 0-8032-7957-4

Medicine, Beatrice. Learning to be and Anthropologist and Remain "Native" . Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-252-06979-X

Roscoe, Will. The Zuni Man-Woman. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1991. ISBN: 0-8263-1253-5

Required articles:

The instructor will provide required reading handouts and web sources throughout the semester. Students are advised to archive these into a binder for reference.

Assessment:

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| In-class responses (4) | 20% |
| Research Paper (5-7 pages) | 30% |
| Midterm exam (in class) | 25% |
| Group project | 25% |

Guidelines for the research paper and group project will be distributed.

Each student will be expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Two or more absences will be grounds for subtracting points from your overall average. As a rule, I do not accept late work. In the rare and extenuating instance in which I may accept late work, the paper will be marked down accordingly. Extra credit is not offered.

Teaching philosophy and strategies: I strive to create a participatory classroom discussion setting, utilizing group work, short in-class written responses and student-led presentations. Individualized student research opportunities are encouraged and made available via research papers and oral presentations. Active learning is sought, meaning honest self-reflection, questioning and real-world application grounded in careful reading and examination of the required texts. Students are advised that sensitive issues of racism, sexism and genocide will be discussed. Respect for others and tolerance for diverse opinions are required.

Week 1: September 5, 7: Introduction

• **Readings:**

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "Preface." *In* Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. xi-xv.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "The Turmoil of Ethnic Studies." *In* Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 154-158.

Medicine, Beatrice. "Learning to Be and Anthropologist and Remaining 'Native.'" *In* Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 3-15.

Week 2: September 10, 12, 14: Who is an Indian? American Indian Identity - Politics

- **Readings:**

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "The Indian Population." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 257-272.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "The Popularity of Being Indian: A New Trend in Contemporary American Society." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 230-240.

Medicine, Beatrice. "The Native American," In Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 295-311.

- **Web Sources:**

Census 2000 report The American Indian and Alaska Native Population:
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kbr01-15.pdf>

Lobo, Susan. Census Taking and the Invisibility of Urban Native Americans Urban Indians, Population Reference Bureau, 2002.
<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2002/CensusTakingandtheInvisibilityofUrbanAmericanIndians.aspx>

- **Film:** A Thousand Roads (2005). Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Week 3: September 17, 19, 21: Who is an Indian? American Indian Identity - Image

September 21 - Monthly group work - No lecture

- **Readings:**

Medicine, Beatrice. "Anthropology as the Indians Image-Maker," In Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 289-294.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "More Others." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 249-256.

Film: Suite: INDIAN (2005) Shelley Niro.

- **Web Sources:**

Indian Women as Sex Objects

<http://www.bluecorncomics.com/princess.htm>

Week 4: September 24, 26, 28: Us and Them: Indian Humor

- **In-class exercise #1 September 24**

- **Readings:**

Basso, Keith H. Portraits of "the Whiteman": Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols Among the Western Apache.

- **Web Sources:**

Images of Native Americans -

<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/nativeamericans/portrayals.html>

Department of the Interior Motion Pictures - Rebuilding Indian Country

<http://video.google.com/nara.html>

Week 5: October 1, 3, 5: American Indian Education

- **October 5 - Research paper proposals due**

- **Readings:**

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "Knowing and Understanding: Traditional Education in the Modern World." *In* Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 137-143.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "The Burden of Indian Education." *In* Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 159-186.

Medicine, Beatrice. "The Interaction of Culture and Sex Roles in the Schools." *In* Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 91-107.

Week 6: October 8, 10, 12: American Indian Education

- In-class exercise #2 October 8
- Reading:

Lomawaima, K. Tsianina. 1994. They Called It Prarie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. Chapters 1-3.

Week 7: Oct. 15, 17, 19:

Midterm Exam October 19

- Reading:

Lomawaima, K. Tsianina. 1994. They Called It Prarie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. Chapters 4-6.

Week 8: October 22, 24, 26: Gender and Colonization

October 26 - Monthly group work - No lecture

- Reading:

Medicine, Beatrice. "North American Indigenous Woman and Cultural Domination." In Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 153-160.

Medicine, Beatrice. "Changing Native American Roles in an Urban Context and Changing Native American Sex Roles in an Urban Context." In Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 117-127.

Medicine, Beatrice. "The Role of American Indian Women in Cultural Continuity and Transition." In Medicine, Learning to Be an Anthropologist and Remaining Native, pp. 147-152.

Week 9: October 29, Oct 31, Nov. 2: American Indian Sex Roles and the Third Gender

- In-class exercise #3 Nov. 2nd
- Readings:

Roscoe, Will. The Zuni Man-Woman. Chapters 1-5.

Week 10: November 5, 7 and 9: The Third Gender

- **Readings:**

Roscoe, Will. The Zuni Man-Woman. Chapters 6-8.

Week 11: November 12, 14, 16: Native American Intellectualism

November 16 Research paper due

- **Readings:**

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "Ethnoscience and Indian Realities." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 63-77.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "If You Think About It, You Will See That It is True." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 40-60.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "Kinship with the World." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 223-229.

Week 12: November 19, 21 (No class Nov. 23 Thanksgiving): Native American Intellectualism

November 21st - Monthly group work - No lecture

- **In-class exercise #4 November 19**

- **Reading:**

Deloria, Vine, Jr. "Sacred Places and Moral Responsibility." In Deloria, Foehner and Scinta, eds. Spirit and Reason, pp. 323-338.

Week 13: November 26, 28, 30: The Indian Environmentalist Revisited

November 28 and 30 - Final group project preparation - No lecture

- **Web Sources:**

Iron Eyes Cody

http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=media_multimedia

The Requickening Project

<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=170011625>

- **Film:** Tree (2007) Shelley Niro.

Week 14: December 3, 5, 7: Group project presentations

Attendance will be taken

Week 15: December: 10, 12, 14 Group project presentations

Attendance will be taken

Group project papers are due in class on the day of your scheduled presentation. No extensions are granted.