

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE

INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 2270, 1997

INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00 and Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment.
Drop-ins welcome.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Over the last five centuries, many peoples of the world have been reduced to indigenous minorities in their homelands, experiencing colonization, population decimation, compulsory labor, the loss of land and other vital resources, missionization, miscegenation, etc. Those who escaped the initial onslaught now find their territories invaded by urban refugees and threatened by increasingly efficient means of exploiting natural resources and by environmental devastation. Alternatively, they are forced into urban migration. The penetration of a cash economy, wage employment, modern education and national administrative structures have undermined political and economic autonomy, and the bases of aboriginal culture. For some, the response has been assimilation, but many indigenous peoples are exploring strategies to combat the loss of their traditional ways through cultural revitalization, political mobilization and/or escape.

Class lectures will be devoted to studying significant themes regarding the impact of the modern world on indigenous societies, using examples from many areas of the world, pointing out differences and similarities. Students will provide specific ethnographic examples by studying particular areas in depth, and sharing their findings with other students.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There will be two take-home tests, one approximately half-way through the term, and the other at the end. These will be based on all course materials, including student presentations. The questions to be answered are designed to encourage students to integrate the concepts and case studies presented in class and in readings.

Students will submit an essay, fifteen to twenty pages in length, on the region and peoples they have chosen as their specialization. Findings will be shared with a small group of fellow students at the end of term. To assist students in locating bibliographical resources for this research, there will be a library assignment early in the term. Assignments must be handed in to the instructor in class on the day they are due. All will be marked out of 9.

ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
Class participation	10	(Largely attendance)
Bibliography	20	Week 4
Mid-term take-home	20	Week 8
Research essay	30	Week 12
Final take-home	20	Week 14

GRADING SYSTEM

GRADE	INTERPRETATION
9	
8	Excellent

7	
6	Good

5	
4	Pass

3	
2	
1	Fail

TEXT

Marc S. Miller, ed.

1993 STATE OF THE PEOPLES: A GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON SOCIETIES IN DANGER. Beacon Press.