

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2500 3(3-0-0), UT, FALL 2003
NORTH AMERICAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:30. Drop-ins welcome.

Delivery method: lecture

Pre-requisites: AN1010

Required text: Nancy Bonvillain, Native nations: cultures and histories of Native North America. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2001.
Other readings will be assigned during the term.

Calendar description: Ethnographic survey of First Peoples, focusing on the interplay between environment, economic, political, social and ideological systems, and experience with the modern world.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves the dual purpose of helping students learn of the aboriginal societies of North America, and demonstrating the value, techniques and shortcomings of the ethnographic method. We shall study the peoples of the principal cultural/ecological areas of North America (the Arctic, Subarctic, Plateau, Plains, California, Northwest Coast, Northeastern Woodlands, Southeastern Woodlands and the American Southwest), ranging from mobile foraging bands to agricultural societies. We shall study the coherence between levels of economic, political, social and ideological complexity (or hierarchy) and associated environmental factors. This in turn will be shown to be related to the historical experience of the peoples of these areas, and to the pattern and timing of intrusion by the modern world system. Approaches to this subject matter include general ethnographic overview, a focus on particular anthropological topics, and cross-cultural research.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Students will submit four short (5-page) assignments during the term, referring to four different culture areas, and based largely on class discussion and the course text. The first take-home assignment is not optional. You may complete as many of these assignments as you like; your best marks will be used in calculating the final course grade. Assignments must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. Monday of the week they are due, i.e. one week after they are assigned.

The results of research into a specific topic, crossing the boundaries of culture areas or of time, will be submitted in the form of an essay and will be shared with a group of students near the end of the term. A brief description of this topic and resources you will use for it must be submitted in Week 8.

The remainder of the course grade will be earned through weekly reports on readings and in-class assignments, whose timing and content will be at the discretion of the instructor. Many opportunities to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for these. As a bonus “in-class” assignment worth ten points, students may to meet with me for an in-depth writing tutorial on one of their assignments, at any point during the term. To facilitate both class discussion in-class assignments, you are strongly encouraged to be familiar with assigned readings and to focus your reading on both ethnographic content and issues of interest to you. For this portion of this course ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

GRADING Abbreviated from Approved Grading Policy 2003/2004

<i>Alpha Grade</i>	<i>4-Point Equivalent</i>	<i>Percentage Guidelines</i>	<i>Designation</i>
A+	4.0	90 - 100	<i>Excellent</i>
A	4.0	85 - 89	
A-	3.7	80 - 84	<i>First Class Standing</i>
B+	3.3	76 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 75	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	70 - 72	
C+	2.3	67 - 69	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C	2.0	64 - 66	
C-	1.7	60 - 63	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
D	1.0	50 - 54	
F	0.0	0 - 49	<i>Fail</i>

All other assignments are marked on the alpha scale.

ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
Take-home assignments	50	Mondays; see Course Schedule
In-class assignments	25	Throughout term
Essay - Cross-cultural topic	25	Week 13
One late assignment, (not in-class)		Week 14