

NAS 303: Ecological Perspectives in Native American Traditions
Wilderness and Civilization Program – Fall 2007

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Office Hours: T/TH, 1:30-4:30, and by appt.

University of Montana
Native American Studies
Room: Journalism 306
Meets: T/TH 11:10-12:30

Course Description:

This class will explore a variety of approaches to understanding and studying ecological perspectives in Indian Country (in both the United States and Canada). We will use a number of academic disciplines to think critically about ethical dilemmas tribes face when confronted with contemporary environmental decisions. Our foundation for learning about these issues will be how tribes relate these decisions to their respective dynamic traditions, as well as how other factors contribute, such as the protection of tribal sovereignty and the need for economic development. We will also explore how different ethics may coincide or clash with those of Native Americans, and students will be encouraged to challenge common (mis)perceptions of Native Americans and the “environment.” Other key topics include: American Indian environmental history, traditional ecological knowledge and practices, the cultural politics of knowledge, and indigenous mapping.

Required Texts:

The following texts have been ordered and should be available at the University Bookstore:

Brody, Hugh. 1997. *Maps and Dreams: Indians and the British Columbia Frontier*. Waveland Press.
Burton, Lloyd. 2002. *Worship and Wilderness: Culture, Religion, and Law in Public Lands Management*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Readings not in the above texts will be available on ERes and on traditional reserve at the library. The password for ERes is NAS303. Email me if you have any problems or questions.

Requirements and Policies:

Classes will be primarily discussion-based, therefore students should come to class prepared for discussion and with the required reading done for that day. I will give a brief 20-30 minute lecture at the beginning of each class. The remainder of the class period will be spent discussing the readings and lecture topics. Students will be expected to take the lead on the discussion. Response papers, turned in for 7 out of the 13-week W&C semester should prepare the students to think critically about the readings and come to class with discussion points and/or thoughts about the material. There will be a mid-term comprised of fill in the blank, short essay, and geographical questions on October 25. Two short papers leading up to the final paper (3-4 pp. each, double-spaced) will be due on October 11 and November 20. The final paper should be 10-15 pages (double-spaced), and is due at 5:00pm on December 7 (in my box). No late papers please.

Here's the Breakdown:

- 10% Participation (engagement with class discussion and attendance)
- 15% Reading responses (1p. single-spaced or 2pp. double-spaced)
- 20% Mid-Term
- 20% Two short papers (10% each)

35% Final Paper
100%

Code of Academic Integrity: Submitted work for exams and written papers must be the student's own work. Please refer to the most recent catalog.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS:

Overview of the course

August 28 Introductions and welcome; logistics

August 29 – September 8 Fall Trek (no classes)

Week 1 **Introductory concepts and themes / American Indian Environmental History**

September 11 Our approach to the course

Required readings:

Robbins, Paul. 2004. *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers. (Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. xv-xvii and 3-16)

White, Richard. 1997. "Indian Peoples and the Natural World: Asking the Right Questions." In *Rethinking American Indian History*, edited by Donald Fixico. pp. 87-100. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

September 13 American Indians and "Wilderness"

Required readings:

Spence, Mark D. 1999. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 1, pp. 9-23)

Warren, Louis S. 1996. "Seeing the People for the Trees: The Promise and Pitfalls of Indian Environmental History." *Magazine of History*. 10(3): 18-23.

Week 2 **American Indian Environmental History (cont'd) / Environment, Perspective, Tradition: How do we define these concepts?**

September 18 Allotment and Land

Required readings:

Clow, Richmond, and Imre Sutton (eds.). 2001. *Trusteeship in Change: Toward Tribal Autonomy in Resource Management*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. (Prologue, pp. xxix-liii)

September 20 The Managed/Lived Environment

Required readings:

- Blackburn, Thomas C., and M. Kat Anderson (eds.). 1993. *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians*. Menlo Park, CA: Ballena Press. (Introduction, pp. 15-25)
- Huntsinger, Lynn, and Sarah McCaffrey. 1995. "A Forest for the Trees: Forest Management and the Yurok Environment 1850 to 1994." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. 19(4): 155-192.

Week 3 Environment, Perspective, Tradition (cont'd)

September 25 Whose Perspective?

Required readings:

- Whitt, Laurie Anne. 1995. "Indigenous People and the Cultural Politics of Knowledge." in *Issues in Native American Cultural Identity*, edited by Michael Green. pp. 223-272. New York: Peter Lang.

September 27 Dynamic Traditions

Required readings:

- LaDuke, Winona. 1999. *All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press. (Introduction, pp. 1-6)
- Nadasdy, Paul. 2003. *Hunters and Bureaucrats: Power, Knowledge and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Southwest Yukon*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. (Chapter 2, pp. 60-113)
- Tallbear, Kimberly. 2002. "All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life by Winona LaDuke, South End Press, 1999 (Review)." *Wicazo Sa Review*. Spring: 234-242.

Week 4 Academic Debates and Theoretical Considerations

October 2 The Ecological Indian

Required readings:

- Krech, Shepard III. 1999. *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Introduction and Epilogue, pp. 15-28, and 211-229)
- Ranco, Darren. 2007. "The Indian Ecologist and the Politics of Representation: Critiquing *The Ecological Indian* in the Age of Ecocide." in *Native Americans and the Environment: Perspectives on the Ecological Indian*, edited by Michael E. Harkin and David Rich Lewis. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

October 4 The Ecological Indian (cont'd)

Required readings:

- Nadasdy, Paul. 2005. "Transcending the Debate over the Ecologically Noble Indian: Indigenous Peoples and Environmentalism." *Ethnohistory*. 52(2): 291-331.

Tallbear, Kimberly. 2000. "Shepard Krech's The Ecological Indian: One Indian's Perspective (Review)." *IIIRM Publications*. September.

Week 5 Academic Debates and Theoretical Considerations (cont'd)

October 9 Knowledge and Politics

Required readings:

Agrawal, Arun. 1995. "Dismantling the Divide between Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge." *Development and Change*. 26: 413-439.

Nadasdy, Paul. 1999. "The Politics of TEK: Power and the 'Integration' of Knowledge." *Arctic Anthropology*. 36(1-2): 1-18.

October 11 Place and Adaptation ***1st PAPER DUE***

Required readings:

Basso, Keith H. 1996. "Wisdom Sits in Places: Notes on a Western Apache Landscape." In *Senses of Place*, edited by Steven Feld and Keith Basso. Santa Fe: School of American Research.

Stoffle, Richard W., Rebecca Toupal, and Nieves Zedeno. 2003. "Landscape, Nature, and Culture: A Diachronic Model of Human-Nature Adaptations." in *Nature Across Cultures: Views of Nature and the Environment in Non-Western Cultures*, edited by Helen Selin. pp. 97-114. London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Week 6 Policy implications

October 16 Co-management and Conservation

Required readings:

Natcher, David, Susan Davis, and Clifford Hickey. 2005. "Co-Management: Managing Relationships, Not Resources." *Human Organization*. 64(3): 240-250.

Stoffle, Richard W., and Michael Evans. 1990. "Holistic Conservation and Cultural Triage." *Human Organization*. 49(2).

October 18 Native American Ecological Perspectives and Environmental Justice

Required readings:

Ishiyama, Noriko. 2003. "Environmental Justice and American Indian Tribal Sovereignty: Case Study of A Land-use Conflict in Skull Valley, Utah." *Antipode*. 35(1): 119-139.

Krakoff, Sarah. 2002. "Tribal Sovereignty and Environmental Justice." in *Justice and Natural Resources: Concepts, Strategies, and Applications*, edited by Kathryn Mutz, Gary Bryner, and Douglas Kenney. pp. 161-185. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Week 7 **Mid-Term Week**

October 23 Review session or view documentary

October 25 *MID-TERM*

Week 8 **Religion, Ethics, and Sacred Places**

Burton, Lloyd. 2002. *Worship and Wilderness: Culture, Religion, and Law in Public Lands Management*.
Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

October 30 Read Burton, chapters 1 & 2

November 1 Read Burton, chapters 3 & 4

Week 9 **Religion, Ethics, and Sacred Places (cont'd)**

November 6 Read Burton, chapters 6 & 7

November 8 Read Burton, chapters 8 & 9

Week 10 **Finish Burton / Start Brody**

Brody, Hugh. 1997. *Maps and Dreams: Indians and the British Columbia Frontier*: Waveland Press.

November 13 Read Burton, chapters 11 & 12

November 15 Read Brody, chapters 1-3

Week 11 **Human Geography and Indigenous Mapping**

November 20 Read Brody, chapters 4-7 *2nd PAPER DUE*

November 22 *No class the 22nd – Thanksgiving Break*

Week 12 **Human Geography and Indigenous Mapping (cont'd)**

November 27 Read Brody, chapters 8-10

November 29 Read Brody, chapters 11-13

Week 13

December 4 Read Brody, chapters 14-16

December 7 *FINAL PAPERS DUE* 5:00pm NAS BLDG HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!