

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
ANTHROPOLOGY 2270

INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

Fall 1992
Time: Thurs. 6:30-9:20 p.m.
Location: ~~Room~~ E 301

Instructor: Laurie Nock
Office: C215
Phone: 539-2830 (office)
539-7348 (home)

Office Hours: Mondays 1100-1200 and Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 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 ever more efficient means of exploiting natural resources and environmental devastation. Alternatively, they are forced into urban migration. Increasing 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. Nevertheless, some 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 presenting their findings to the class.

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 answers should be approximately ten double-spaced pages in length.

Students will submit an essay, fifteen to twenty pages in length, on the region and peoples they have chosen as their specialization. Their findings will be shared with the class in a fifteen-minute oral presentation.

Assignments must be handed in to the instructor in class on the day they are due. If submitted after that, the mark on the assignments will be reduced by 3 (out of a maximum of 9) stanine points; they will not be accepted beyond a week after the due date.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Mid-term Take-home	30	October 29
Essay	30	November 19
Class presentation	10	November 26
Final Take-home	30	December 10

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
9	
8	Excellent

7	
6	Good

5	
4	Pass

3	
2	
1	Fail

TEXT

Burger, Julian
1987 REPORT FROM THE FRONTIER: THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. Cambridge, Mass.:
Zed Books/Cultural Survival.

ANTHROPOLOGY 327
INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

ORAL PRESENTATION AND ESSAY

Value: 25% each

Presentations: 15-20 minutes, November 20, 1991.

Essays: up to 5000 words, December 4, 1991.

In this oral presentation and essay, you are to describe the experience of an indigenous minority in the modern world. Make use of the anthropological concept of holism (All aspects of society and culture are related, such that change in one affects others.) to examine how the influence of the outside world has altered the people's cultural, social, political and economic systems. Which of these appears to be most affected, and which the most resilient? Where possible, also describe movements of resistance and protest. You may wish to focus primarily on one of these, but do not do so at the expense of ignoring the remainder.