

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE
INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 2270

INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

Phone: 539-2830 (office), 539-7348 (home)

Office: C215

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
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7	
6	Good
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5	
4	Pass
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3	
2	
1	Fail
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TEXT

Marc S. Miller, ed.

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

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COURSE SCHEDULE (AN APPROXIMATION)

Week 1	Introduction to course READ: Introductions, "Societies in Danger" and "Resources for Action" in STATE OF THE PEOPLES
Week 2	Processes of colonization
Week 3	Neocolonialism, modernization, development
Week 4	The economic and political subordination of aboriginal peoples LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 5	Cultural subordination of indigenous minorities: religion
Week 6	Cultural subordination of indigenous minorities: education
Week 7	Challenges to indigenous ideologies
Week 8	Changes in social relationships: inequality MID-TERM DUE
Week 9	Discussion of mid-term themes
Week 10	Gender relations
Week 11	Indigenous peoples and the environment
Week 12	Resistance, cultural revitalization, political mobilization RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE
Week 13	Class discussion of research findings
Week 14	FINAL TAKE-HOME DUE

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LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT

Due Date: WEEK 4

Value: 20% of final course grade

The purpose of this assignment is to locate and describe Grande Prairie Regional College Library resources on indigenous peoples of various areas of the world.

You will either select or be assigned a world area, and your task then will be to use CD-ROMS, the computerized catalogue (and library shelves), periodical indexes and resource materials to compile a list of useful print, electronic and audio-visual materials, including brief descriptive comments. These assignments will be compiled and placed on reserve for the use of all students in the course.

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MID-TERM TAKE-HOME QUESTION

Due Date: WEEK 8

Value: 20% of final course grade

Carefully study the circumstances of five world areas as described in the "Global rights summary" of STATE OF THE PEOPLES. Prepare a chart in which you list in an organized fashion the factors which are influencing the way of life of these peoples. What can you learn from this on the shared or unique experiences of aboriginal peoples around the world?

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to sift through, organize and analyze information, discerning common patterns and distinct features. Data can be bewildering!

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RESEARCH ESSAY

Due Date: WEEK 12

Value: 20% of final course grade

Length: up to 5000 words

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 ideological, 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.