

Native Studies 1000 (U.of A. NST100): Introduction to Native Studies (3 Credits)

Grande Prairie Regional College/Kayas College

Fall, 1996

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D.

GPRC Office C216

Office Phone: 539-2828

Home 539-7764

Introduction: This course introduces the discipline of Native Studies and the research and writing skills necessary for success in an academic program. The student will explore the experience of Canadian native peoples from first European contact, tracing the origins of modern conditions and showing the strategies for self-government, recovery and renewal adopted by native leaders and nations. Through lectures, case studies and discussion of class readings, students examine and evaluate the interaction between European and native peoples in the light of the values, agendas and goals held by both native and newcomer groups. The course places special emphasis on how to study, research and write in a university environment, and prepares students for future studies in higher education.

Besides a mid-term test and final examination, students will keep a journal, write a brief evaluation of a scholarly article, write a brief book review and complete a short research essay.

Textbooks:

Miller, J.R. Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens. (revised edition).

Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991.

Engelstad, Diane and Bird, John. Nation to Nation: Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Future of Canada. Toronto: Anansi, 1992.

Comeau, Pauline and Santin, Aldo. The First Canadians. Toronto: Lorimer, 1995.

Marking Scheme:

Journal		10%
Article evaluation	(four pages)	10%
Mid-term test	(in class)	10%
Book Review	(four pages)	15%
Research Essay	(eight pages)	20%
Attendance and Participation		10%
Final Exam		25%

		100%

Outline:

First Circle: The Present

[Textbook: The First Canadians]

- Sept 16 First Class: Getting Started
18 PLEASE READ: Chapter 1
- Sept 23 READ: Chapter 2-3
25 READ: Chapter 4
- Sept 30 READ: Chapters 5-6
Oct 2 READ: Chapter 7
- Oct 7 READ: Chapters 8-9
9 READ: Chapter 10, and Postscript
- Oct 14: Thanksgiving Holiday

Second Circle: The Future

[Text: Nation to Nation]

- 16 READ: Beginning to page 38.
- Oct 21 READ: pages 39-66
23 READ: pages 67-97
- Oct 28 READ: pages 101-132
30 READ: pages 133-158
- Nov 4 READ: pages 159-178
6 READ: pages 179-196
- Nov 11: Remembrance Day
13 READ: pages 199-228

Third Circle: The Past

[Text: Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens]

- Nov 18 READ: Chapters 1-2
20 READ: Chapters 3, 7
- Nov 25 READ: Chapters 4-5
27 READ: Chapter 6, 8
- Dec 2 READ: Chapters 9-10
4 READ: Chapter 11
- Dec 9 READ: Chapters 12-13
11 READ: Chapter 14-15
- Dec 16 READ: Chapter 16
18 Review and Assessment

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Format: The course is made up of short lectures and discussion, based on the reading for each class. In the lectures I will discuss both the craft of university studies and the content of the texts, answer any questions about the course and how best to learn in it. My goal is to guide you through the course materials and show you how to become successful students: in other words, when you finish the course, you will have a good working knowledge of BOTH the general history of Canadian native peoples AND how to pursue further study of it.

Please try to have the readings I have assigned for each week done before class. On the other hand, if you have not had time to finish them all, come anyway and join in the discussions or answer any questions you can. If illness or family needs force you to miss a class, please keep me informed, and I will be happy to help you catch up.

University courses require students to express themselves clearly in writing, in speech and in debate or discussion. I will be happy to receive rough drafts of any assignments in advance, and give you feedback before you hand in the final copy. Throughout the course, I will be giving hints and examples from my own student days as well as my history teaching career. Here are some of the topics we will cover in the course. Happy learning!

The story of Canadian Native Studies
Ethnohistory: Straight thinking about Crooked Ideas
Academic Skills: Time Management, Studying for tests and Examinations.
Academic Writing: Crafts and Practice in Essay writing
Research Skills: Sources, Libraries, Interviews and Archives
Critical Skills: Thinking and Reading Strategies
The Royal Proclamation
The first Indian Acts
Reserves
Native Leadership: Traditions and Models
The rise of Activism
The White Paper
The Battle for the Land
Sovereignty and Self-Government
The Crisis of the 1990s