

Grande Prairie Regional College
NT1000 (UofA NST1000): Introduction to Native Studies (3 Credits)
Winter, 1999
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Introduction: NT1000 is an introduction to Native and University-level studies. Approximately half the term will be spent exploring the history of European Canadian-Native contact, tracing the origins of modern conditions and showing the strategies for self-determination, recovery and renewal adopted by native leaders and nations. The remainder of the course will focus on contemporary Native issues from the White Paper of 1969 to the recent Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The course also places a special emphasis on how to study, research and write in a university environment.

Text:

Pauline Comeau and Aldo Santin. The First Canadians: A Profile of Canada's Native People Today. (Bookstore)

Assignments and Grading: There will be no final examination in NT1000. Marks will be based on written work and on classroom presentations/participation:

Short assignments (5)	50%
Short Essay/Bibliography	25%
Issues Presentation	15%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Short Assignments:

Five short papers will be written by each student during the term. If the student is not satisfied with the marks, each one may be rewritten and remarked once. The best grades for each will be used to calculate the final mark.

The short assignments will all consists of short summaries and evaluations of articles written by leading scholars in the field of Native Studies. Copies of these articles will be placed on reserve and/or be available in class two weeks prior to each due date. You should spend the first half of the paper giving an analytical summary of the article, and the second half offering an educated, critical reaction to it. Is the article informative? Did its contents surprise you or change your view of the past? Is it well written and useful to you as a student of history. These papers will usually be about 4-5 pages, double-spaced, in length.

Short Essay/Bibliography:

This is a longer assignment which asks you first to pick an issue from contemporary Native affairs in Canada which interests you, then choose at least five sources for your essay - articles or books written by informed people - which you submit as a proposal in mid-March. Feel free to ask me or anyone in library reference for help in developing your topic and finding sources.

In your essay, you will take a position on the issue, based on your research. You then present your major argument and offer evidence in support of your position, then deal with major arguments critics might offer against your position. This paper is due in early April. I will be giving a more detailed guideline and assistance in getting this ready, in February.

Class Presentation:

Everyone is to give a class presentation on a contemporary issue of your choice. This presentation does not have to be based on your short essay research, but it certainly can be. Your presentation should be planned to last about 20-30 minutes, depending on how you plan to do it. Please feel free to discuss this with me as the course goes along. Presentations will begin in March, after Reading Week.

Lecture Schedule:

January 7: Getting Started

January 12, 14: Theories and Beginnings

January 19, 21: Native Societies before Contact

January 26, 28: Traders, Colonizers and Missionaries

Assignment #1 due January 28: "Historian's Indian" by Bruce Trigger.

February 2, 4: Imperial Struggles

February 9, 11: The Settlement Years

Assignment #2 due February 11: "The Extermination of the Beothuk, by L.F.S. Upton.

February 16, 18: The Western Fur Trade

February 22-26: Reading Week

March 2, 4: The Policy of Bible and Plough

Assignment #3: "The Northwest Rebellion of 1885" by J.R. Miller.

March 9, 11: Recovery

March 16, 18: Renewal

Assignment #4: Choice of 3 articles: see instructor.

March 23, 25: Contemporary Issues

March 30, April 1: Contemporary Issues

Assignment # 5: Choice of 3 articles: see me!

April 6, 8: Contemporary Issues

April 13 Wrap-up