American Indian Politics,
POS 3076
Fall 2011
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Course Description
The course explores the politics unique to American Indian peoples, from the international, tribal, inter-tribal, and intra-tribal perspectives. We will delve into key questions that define this particular politics through historical overview, judicial precedent, social movement, and other areas of AIP.

Course Objectives:
Students will come away from the course able to answer key questions regarding AIP about governance, inter-governmental relations, and policy.

Required Texts
- *American Indian Politics and the American Political System:* David Wilkins and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik (AIP henceforth), **Third Edition.**
- *God is Red: A Native View of Religion*, Vine Deloria
- *Prison Writings: My Life is my Sundance*, Leonard Peltier
- *Indian Country Today* (Magazine and media network found at: http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com)

NOTICE: COURSE PROTOCOLS FOUND IN WEBCOURSES ARE PART OF THIS SYLLABUS

Grade Categories	Description of the requirements	Weight toward final grade (1000pnts)
Journal Entries	10 journal entries, 20 points each	200
Synthetic Essays	4 essays 100 points each	400
4 Exams	100 points each; One exam at the end of each module, including the final exam.	400

Journal Essays
I require that you read *Indian Country Today* (ICT) at least once a week. You will link stories in *ICT* to other course readings in journal entries due at assigned times noted in the module schedule below. Be sure to review the journal grading form in webcourses I will use to assign grades and provide feedback.

Synthetic Essays

See Course Protocols. In this class you are required to cite a minimum of 4 readings from the module. Separate chapters from the 3 required texts can be individually cited (e.g., Peltier, Chapter 4). Normally this is not the convention, but it works for my purpose in this case.

Exams

Exams are open from 6am on the last Thursday to 6pm on the last Friday of each module, except the final. They are 50 questions of multiple choice, 2 points each. In the exam, you will see some easier questions testing simple knowledge recall, to more difficult applied, comparative, and analytical questions.

You will have 75 minutes to complete the exam once it is opened. You may take the exam as often as you wish, but only the first attempt will count for your grade. Save your answers as you go to minimize computer problems. Grades will not be available until the exam period is complete.

Course Modules and Schedule

Module 1: Setting the Stage: Discovery, US Jurisprudential Foundations and Eras

4 weeks August 23-Sept 16

Weeks

1. Introduction to AIP
    a. AIP preface/intro and chpt1 (xii- p. 32)
2. Discovery Doctrine and Settler Contact
    a. Blumm, 2004, *Vermont Law Review*, "Retracing the Discovery Doctrine: Aboriginal Title, Tribal Sovereignty, and Their Significance to Treaty-Making and Modern Natural Resources Policy in Indian Country" **pp. 1-21** (careful if printing this out—50 pages of footnotes!)
    b. *Johnson v McIntosh* (1823)
3. Early Foundational Precedent, in media library
    a. *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* (1831)
    b. *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832)
4. Federal-Tribal History- Principle Eras
    a. Chapt 5

Assignments and Exam All due by 6pm in Webcourses:

- Journal entries due on Fridays at 6pm in webcourses 8/26; 9/2; and 9/9
- Synthetic Essay 1 due in webcourses 9/16
    - How is political history important for understanding AIP? What does the political history mean? How do the ancient concepts of "discovery" interact with the politics of contemporary American Indian people? How different is AIP compared with other politics?
- Exam 1: Open from 9/15 6am to 9/16 6pm

Module 2: American Indian Citizenship, Government, and Actors

3 weeks: 9/19-10/7

1. Citizenship
    a. Read the commerce clause, and the Amendments to the US Constitution here: http://www.usconstitution.net/
    b. AIP chpt 7
2. Government
    a. AIP chpt 3
    b. AIP chpt 6
3. Actors
    a. AIP chpt 4
    b. AIP chpt 8

Assignments and Exams

- Journal essays: 9/23; 9/30
- Synthetic Essay 2 is due in webcourses October 8th: Focus:
    - You are an attorney for a Cheyenne member who has been turned away from a Wyoming polling station for a state election. Your client is arguing that he has the right to vote in Wyoming elections. Explain the precedents and complexities that supports you client, and anticipate your opposition's claims.
- Exam 2: Open from 10/6 6am to 10/7 6pm

Module 3: Ontological Politics

4 weeks: 10/10- 11/4

1. Problems of Space and Time
    a. *God is Red,* chpt 1-4
2. Religion and AIP
    a. *God is Red*, 5-8
3. Cultural Politics
    a. *God is Red*, 9-13
4. Problems of the sacred and survival
    a. *God is Red,* finish

Assignments and Exam

- Journal entries due on Fridays at 6pm in webcourses 10/14; 10/21; 10/28
- Synthetic Essay due 11/4:
    - What does it mean that AIP exists in different ontological positions than Western mainstream politics? What are the central features and concepts of AIP according to Deloria?
- Exam 3: Open from 11/3 6 a.m. to 11/4

Module 4: Nations, Representation, and Prison

4 weeks: 11/7-12/2

1. Images and Media
    a. AIP, chpt 9
2. Prison and Liberation Politics
    a. Peltier, *Prison Writings*, all
3. The future of AIP is in the past
    a. AIP chpt 10
4. Open/Review

Assignments and Exam

- 2 Journal entries due on Fridays at 6pm in webcourses 11/18; 11/25
- Synthetic Essay 4 due 12/2:
    - What is the future of AIP? Explain the main concepts and ideas that you think will be the most important for the future of politics for American Indian people.
- FINAL EXAM 4—NOTE DIFFERENT TIMING: Exam will be open in webcourses 12/9, 7-9:50am.