

## **INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES NAS 1000 FALL 2009**

**Kori M. Guy, Navajo/Cherokee**  
**kguy1@mscd.edu**

This course provides an opportunity to study the indigenous population of the United States. We focus on the historical political, social and economic relations between Native Americans, the federal government, and American society in general. The purpose of this course is four fold: (1) to develop a better understanding of the differences in mental and behavioral characteristics of Native Americans and society; (2) to examine the destructive and confusing treatment of the first Americans; (3) to understand how federal Indian policies shaped Indian Nations to what they are today; (4) and to be able to develop an understanding of the issues contemporary Indians continue to confront. In order to accomplish this, we will examine the theoretical explanations of the historical realities of Native Americans. In doing so we take into account such concepts as colonization, assimilation, cultural pluralism, cultural suicide/genocide, internal colonialism, and causes for change. We will incorporate the Indigenous perspective rather than the accepted Euro-American perspective. Consequently, much of what students assume to know about American Indians may be heavily challenged in the readings and in class discussions.

### **TEXTS REQUIRED:**

- Yvette Melanson, Looking for Lost Bird, Avon Books, 1999
- Robert Benson, Children of the Dragonfly, University of Arizona, 2001
- Zia Meranto, The Other American Governments (purchase in class (less shipping costs) or through <http://www.tmdgraphics.com/> on "products page")

### **EVALUATION:**

20% Attendance and participation  
5% & 15% Group presentation and individual paper  
30 % Assignments in class and take-home  
30% Final

There are no excused absences. Please do not email me regarding missed classes unless it is for an extended period of time. If you need to speak with me make an appointment after class as I do not have regular office hours. If you have missed class contact a classmate through metroconnect. It is your responsibility to check with your classmate as to what you missed in class. Any questions you have about the class, readings or assignments please ask me in class.

Please read the MSCD Department of Political Science Supplement posted on Metroconnect, file name PSC Supplement. This supplement discusses your rights and responsibilities, NC policy, and provides dates/deadlines/holidays for

Fall Semester 2009.

**COURSE OUTLINE  
(subject to change)**

<b>Class Dates assignments</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings &amp;</b>
Sept. 21 – Oct. 2	Introduction, Indigenous worldview	Read: Cook-Lynn article Meranto, Introduction & 1 Thought paper due
Oct. 5 – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Historical overview, Discovery and Conquest, Indigenous Thought	Meranto 2 & 3, Bensen Part 1 Film 500 Nations
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Midterm TBA	Removal & relocation, Institutionalization of Indians	Bensen: Part II & III Film: In the White Man's Image
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Indians in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Reorganization to termination, Cultural Appropriation	Meranto 4 Melanson 1-50 Film: 500 Nations
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> *Fall Break	Modern tribal governments Contemporary Issues Indian identity	Meranto 5 & 6 Melanson completed Film: Winds of Change
Dec. 1 – 11 <sup>th</sup> Final TBA	Self-determination Contemporary Issues	Film: Spirit of Crazy Horse Group Presentations

Should you need copies of this, or any other questions for clarity, please refer to our course pg on Metroconnect. We are wishing to stay 'green' and use our computers rather than to make so many copies. Study guides and articles will also be posted on MetroConnect. Thanks, Kori Guy