

American Indian Studies/Religious Studies 188
Fall 2004
Langdon 120
MWF 1-1:50

Lisa E. Emmerich
Trinity 215, 898-6338
Office Hours: MWF 12:15-12:45,
MW 2-3:45, & by appointment
Email: lemmerich@csuchico.edu

Worldviews of American Indians

Course Description and Goals

Worldviews of American Indians seeks to introduce students to the rich diversity of philosophies and religions of the Indians of North America from pre-Western contact to the present. Lectures, readings, discussions, and other in-class activities will focus on diverse Native spiritual concepts, ceremonies, literatures, and oral traditions. AIST/RS 188 meets the Chico State Cultural Diversity requirement of the General Education curriculum. Thus, the course examines the basic concepts of intergroup and intercultural relations and the intersection of ethnicity with a variety of social categories within the context of American Indian religions. It provides opportunities for exploring intra-cultural and cross-cultural relationships among Native nations and between Indian communities and non-Indians.

Students taking Worldviews of American Indians should expect a course designed to "do" two separate, yet related, kinds of work. First, this class will increase your understanding of the forces and conditions affecting American Indian people and their religions in the past and influencing them today. Second, this course is intended to enhance your general knowledge, to improve your writing, critical thinking, discussion and speaking skills, and to help you better understand the impact (s), perspectives, and contributions of these unique Indigenous communities and belief systems.

Required Readings The following textbooks are required and are available at the AS Bookstore.

Joseph Brown, Teaching Spirits

Ronald Niezen, Spirit Wars

Philip Jenkins, Dream Catchers

Gerald Mohatt and Joseph Eagle Elk, The Price of a Gift

****Reserve Reading Materials*

Hultkrantz, Belief and Worship in Native North America

Oswalt, This Land Was Theirs

Irwin, The Dream Seekers

Course Requirements

Your grade is determined on the basis of the following components. To receive a passing grade for this course you must complete the following:

1. Four quizzes, 50 points each, 200 points total. At present, these are scheduled for the weeks of: 9/10, 10/1, 10/25, and 11/17. Please note that these dates are subject to change.
2. Final examination: Cumulative and non-cumulative components. 150 points total. Our final examination is scheduled for **December 15, 2-3:50, in our classroom.**
3. Research paper (10-13 pages): 200 points. The handout discussing this assignment is attached to the syllabus. Library and web-based assignments are included in this project.

Grading Scale

A 550-515

A- 514-500

B+ 499-485

B 484-465

B- 464-450

C+ 449-435

C 434-415

C- 414-400

D+ 399-385

Cultural Activities

As an Ethnic designated course, AIST 188 offers students unique opportunities to read, think, and talk about the myriad nations that comprise the historic and contemporary American Indian population. To further enhance your knowledge of and appreciation for Native cultures, you are required to attend at least **four** public events or arts events (**on or off-campus**) that relate to this subject. I will maintain a file of materials describing activities that would satisfy this requirement and make it available to you at each class session. I invite you to bring any events/activities that you might know of to the attention of the class. Please turn in a 1-2 page write-up (with a notice/flier/program from the event if at all possible) for each activity; I will count these assignments toward your extra credit points, and I'll keep track of the number of events you've attended.

Please note: It will not always be possible for you to attend events/activities that are directly related to our subject. CSU, Chico is not known as a hotbed for American Indian cultural events or arts and crafts. Therefore, I am willing to accept other activities/events **within reason**. A concert at Arco Arena won't do; a visit to an art exhibit, a concert, or a play will work. If you have any questions about this, just ask. One final point: this requirement does not obligate you to spend money. During the course of the semester, there will be numerous activities/events for you to participate in that are **FREE**.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 20 points in extra credit during the semester. I will bring a file to class with information on activities that pertain to our class. Please feel free to add any information that you might come across. I'll accept extra credit every Monday in class. All extra credit work must be handed in by December 3. Extra credit points are earned by writing short (no more than 2 typed pages) discussion and/or response papers in conjunction with:

1. Attending or participating in public activities relating to Americans Indians (powwows, speakers, films, plays, gallery exhibits, and concerts all fall into this category).
2. Reviewing and critiquing documentaries, made-for-TV movies, and films that deal with American Indians and American Indian issues (e.g., Incident at Oglala, Thunderheart, Pocahontas, Powwow Highway, Smoke Signals, Little Big Man).
3. Following stories in the news (TV, newspaper, newsmagazine, Internet) that deal with American Indians and American Indian issues.
4. Investigate web sites related to American Indians and American Indian issues. Ask me for a brief list.

Grade Record

Record you quiz, paper, and extra credit/cultural event scores on the table below. This will assist you in tracking your status during the semester.

Quiz Scores	Paper Scores	Cultural Event	Extra Credit	Extra Credit
1.	1.	1.	1.	8.
2.	2.	2.	2.	9.
3.	3.	3.	3.	10.
4.	4.	4.	4.	
	5.		5.	
	6.		6.	
Total:	Total:	Total:	7.	Total:

General Class Statement

As instructor, it is my job to make sure that this class is informative and enjoyable. It is your responsibility to prepare for class, take notes, read, show up on time, and participate in class discussions. To help create the best environment for all of us to do our respective "jobs" this semester, I've developed the following guidelines. If you believe that you cannot adhere to them, **I strongly encourage you to drop this class now.**

1. We--students and faculty--all contribute to the creation of a classroom atmosphere that encourages the free exchange of thoughts and ideas. To sustain this atmosphere for the duration of the semester, it is important that all members of the class are treated with dignity and respect.
2. Newspaper reading, listening to music, and prolonged conversations (in person or on a cell phone) are rude and disruptive. Bone up on the news, bop 'til you drop, and dish with your friends before or after class, but not during. I will not hesitate to publicly call students on this behavior and invite frequent offenders to leave the class permanently.
3. Habitual late arrivals and early departures are rude and disruptive. If you need to arrive late or leave early for a *bona fide* reason, please let me know.
4. Missed writing assignments **may** be made up only under extraordinary circumstances (my call, not yours) and are subject to grade penalties. Make-up examinations **may** be offered at my discretion. Please note that I am under no obligation whatsoever to offer make-up assignments or examinations.
5. Incompletes and withdrawals are given only under extraordinary circumstances. These do not include prolonged absences from class, poor grades going into the final, or the decision to ignore course requirements.
6. Students with special needs and circumstances are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (DSS, x5959). I am happy to accommodate students through DSS, but cannot offer similar support or services independent of that center.

Weekly Class Schedule

(**B**=Brown; **N**=Niezen; **J**=Jenkins; **M/E**=Mohatt and Eagle Elk)

Weekly Reading Schedule

Class Topics

Assignment

Aug. 23	Introduction to Course and American Indians	No Assignment
Aug. 30	Introduction to California Indians	B: Chapter 1
Sept. 6	Ways of Thinking and Knowing *** Research assignment deadline	B: Chapter 2 and 4; Hultkrantz, Chapters 1 and 4.
Sept. 13	The Boundaries of the World *** Research assignment deadline	B: Chapter 3; Hultkrantz, Chapter 7; Irwin, Chapter 3.
Sept. 20	Sustaining Life	B: Chapters 5; M/E, Introduction and Parts 1 and 2.
Sept. 27	Sustaining Life	B: Chapter 6; M/E, Part 3.
Oct. 4	Sustaining Life ***Research paper deadline	B: Chapter 7
Oct. 11	Sustaining Life	M/E, Part 4, Conclusion, and Epilogue.
Oct. 18	The Invasion of the Americas	N: Chapters 1 and 2
Oct. 25	The Invasion of the Americas	N: Chapters 3 and 4
Nov. 1	The Invasion of the Americas	N: Chapter 5
Nov. 8	The Invasion of the Americas ***Research paper deadline	No Reading Assignment
Nov. 15	Contemporary Challenges ***Research paper conferences	N: Chapters 6-8
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov. 29	Contemporary Challenges	J: TBA
Dec. 6	Contemporary Challenges ***Research paper deadline	J: TBA

Final Examination

