

# Indigenous Peoples of North America

## Anthropology 3110, Sec. 810/820

### Syllabus - Fall 2019



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<sup>1</sup>Standing With Standing Rock Peaceful March & Rally, Seattle, WA. Image By John Duffy - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jduf4/29697558231/in/album-72157673977701586/>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=52775412>

## **Contact Information/Office Hours**

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Office Hours: T 2-3 PM and by appt.

## **Course Introduction**

“Native survivance is an active sense of presence over absence,” - Gerald Vizenor

This course explores the cultural diversity, ways of life, history, and present-day realities of the indigenous peoples of North America – those peoples present on this continent prior to the arrival of Europeans. This course will be particularly geared towards overcoming persistent and incorrect stereotypes among non-indigenous Americans about indigenous peoples. Where mainstream media represents Native Americans as a monolithic whole, we will use ethnographic studies and indigenous scholarship to show how there is no homogenous group of “Native Americans”: rather, there are hundreds of indigenous nations in North America, and we will attempt to briefly survey this vast and rich cultural diversity. Furthermore, while indigenous peoples and colonial assaults against them are often thought of as belonging to history, we will show the continuing struggles of indigenous nations for sovereignty and survivance against colonialism. A final overarching topic will be who has the right to speak about indigenous peoples and if research, itself, is colonial.

## **Required Texts**

1. Steve Talbot, *Native Nations of North America: An Indigenous Perspective*. Pearson, 2015. (T)
2. All other readings will be posted on Canvas (C).

## **Indigenous Voices**

Research by those outside of an indigenous tradition present only one perspective, and one that can sometimes be woefully incomplete, whether intentionally or not. To provide additional perspectives, this course will engage with indigenous voices and scholarship in a number of ways. For example, nearly all of the Canvas readings were written by Native scholars or authors; there are also a number of videos by or featuring indigenous persons.

## **Learning Objectives**

Students will:

1. Comprehend cultural diversity among North American indigenous populations, past and present, and discuss examples of specific indigenous cultures.
2. Apply scholarly theories, including the peoplehood matrix, to analyze contemporary indigenous issues.
3. Assess ideological and social factors leading to colonialism historically.
4. Analyze the continuing impacts of colonialism and social, economic, political, and cultural factors affecting present-day issues of sovereignty and survival for Native Americans.
5. Design a presentation on the traditional culture and contemporary situation of an indigenous nation.
6. Assess power dynamics, history, and issues of authority relative to anthropological research of Native Americans.

## Assignments

**Discussion Board Posts/Response Posts:** Students will complete 10 discussion board responses which are related to the assigned readings. As part of this assignment, students will also respond to the discussion board post of one of their peers (the peer responses should be 3-4 sentences long). **Due: As listed on course schedule.**

**Peoplehood Project:** Students will develop a website in which they holistically describe an indigenous nation, and challenges to the peoplehood of this group, based upon research with primary and/or scholarly sources. Additional information is provide on Canvas. **Due: 11/11/19.**

**Tests:** Students will complete three tests via Blackboard over the course materials for each of the three units.  
**Dates: as listed on course schedule.**

## Objectives/Assignments Correlation Table

| Objective   | Assignment  |
|---|---|
| 1: Comprehend diversity among North American indigenous populations, past and present, and discuss examples of specific indigenous cultures.  | <b>Peoplehood Project</b><br><b>Tests 1, 2, 3</b><br><b>Discussions 2, 6, 7, 8, 9</b>     |
| 2: Apply scholarly theories, including the peoplehood matrix, to analyze contemporary indigenous issues.  | <b>Peoplehood Project</b><br><b>Tests 1, 2, 3</b><br><b>Discussions 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 14</b> |
| 3: Assess ideological and social factors leading to colonialism historically  | <b>Tests 1, 2, 3</b><br><b>Discussions 4, 7, 13</b>                                       |
| 4: Analyze the continuing impacts of colonialism and social, economic, political, and cultural factors affecting present-day issues of sovereignty and survival for Native Americans. | <b>Peoplehood Project</b><br><b>Tests 1, 2, 3</b><br><b>Discussions 6, 7, 13, 14</b>      |
| 5: Design a website on the traditional culture and contemporary situation of an indigenous nation.  | <b>Peoplehood Project</b>   |
| 6: Assess power dynamics, history, and issues of authority relative to anthropological research of Native Americans.  | <b>Tests 1, 2, 3</b><br><b>Discussion 15</b>  |

## Grading Scale

900-1000 A / 800-899 B / 700-799 C / 600-690 D / 0-599 F

## Grading Composition

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Discussion Boards.....  | 200 Points  |
| Test 1.....             | 200 Points  |
| Test 2.....             | 200 Points  |
| Peoplehood Project..... | 200 Points  |
| Test 3.....             | 200 Points  |
| Total.....              | 1000 Points |

## **Course Policies**

**1. Withdrawal:** If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F”.

**2. Extra Credit:** I will notify you of any extra credit opportunities.

**3. Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu). **In this classroom, “acceptable student behavior” includes (but is not limited to) (1) being respectful of others’ thoughts, opinions, experiences, and perspectives and (2) using the discussion board forums appropriately.**

**4. Contacting the Professor:** Please feel free to come by office hours for assistance. Otherwise, email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class: [adam.dunstan@unt.edu](mailto:adam.dunstan@unt.edu). In the email, you must indicate your course and full name to facilitate my response. You must use your official UNT email. Please provide 24 hours (72 hours on the weekend or holidays) for a response.

**5. Do Not Miss Tests or Other Due Dates:** If you have a conflict with any due date, presentation date, or test date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – not after the fact. Students may not take tests late unless I have given previous written permission, or there has been a documented emergency. Allowing alternative arrangements in such instances is entirely at the discretion of myself.

**6. Late Work:** If submitted late, the discussion posts and peoplehood project will receive a -20% deduction per day.

**7. Academic Misconduct:** The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

**8. ADA:** The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the

Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

9. **Virtual Classroom Citizenship:** The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper *netiquette* when interacting with class members and the professor.
10. **Copyright:** Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.
11. **Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Issues:** The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor may extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.
12. **Important Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses:** For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

#### University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International

Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## **Strategies for Success**

I hope this course is a truly enriching experience for you; to ensure that this is the case, I recommend to you the following strategies for success.

1. Read the syllabus and course schedule thoroughly – and then read them again. These are your guides to the course, and especially critical as this is an online course (and therefore more self-directed, without as many reminders from the professor).
2. Come by office hours, make an appointment, or reach out by email, if you have any questions of concerns **at all**. I am here to help, and want you to succeed.
  - a. When you email, include your full name and course semester to facilitate my response.
  - b. In visiting my office, come during office hours or make an appointment; otherwise, I will likely be unable to see you.
3. If a documented medical emergency prevents completion of work, contact me **immediately** and discuss the situation with me.
4. Be forewarned that I cannot just “bump” your grade up at the end of the semester if you have not received the requisite points, so ensure you do all work, talk to me early in the course if you have grade concerns, and take advantage of any extra credit opportunities that may arise.

## **A NOTE ON THE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE**

Syllabus and schedule are subject to change at instructor discretion; please check email and Canvas regularly for updates.