

SAMPLE

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ANT-125: AMERICAN INDIANS
Fall Semester 2013, Berkshire Community College
Section 01: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00 am – 10:50 am, Melville 215

AIDAN CLEMENT, Adjunct Faculty
Office Phone/Voicemail: (413) 236-4608
Primary Email: aclement@berkshirecc.edu

Office: Melville 219
Office Hours: by appointment
Other Email: aidan793@yahoo.com

TEXTS: - *Native American Voices*, 3rd Edition, Susan Lobo & Steve Talbot
 - Numerous handouts provided throughout the semester
 - Fictional work by prominent Native author, chosen with permission

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From the catalog: “A survey of the native peoples of the Americas. Language, religion, gender, kinship, economics, politics, history, and identity are examined, as well as the relationships of the native peoples with non-Indians.”

Skills Prerequisite: ENG 020 and ENG 060. Recommendation: ANT 101.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fascinating cultures of American Indian peoples using an anthropological perspective. Furthermore, this course will attempt to shed light on many of the controversial, challenging, and problematic issues that Indian people are involved in today. It is hoped that students will learn to appreciate the American Indian experience in all its facets, both good and bad.

TEACHING PROCEDURE:

Lecture will take a backseat to discussion. Instructor will lead class discussions and supplement these with periodic, short lectures. Discussion will consist of an open format where students will be expected and encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned readings, and more importantly, to analyze and evaluate the themes, arguments, and issues raised in the readings. Finally, the instructor will periodically show films related to the current topics of the course that will also be utilized for class discussion.

TEACHING/LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- I. Practicing how to think critically
- II. Utilizing discussion to elucidate ideas
- III. Grasping the art of relevant notetaking
- IV. Recognizing historical, cultural, and personal perspectives in texts and films
- V. Analyzing the contexts that have created humanity’s variable cultural circumstances
- VI. Enjoying anthropology and cultural diversity!

EMBEDDED CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Written Communication
- Critical Thinking

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING: Students are expected to complete the readings (textbook and handout) for each class session. As discussion of these readings is essential to the course, participation in class dialogue is highly encouraged. There will be two exams and two papers. The first paper will be a profile of one North American Indian people. The second paper will examine a relevant topic of the student's choosing, with the instructor's permission. The midterm will cover the first half of the course and the final exam will cover the second half of the course. The exams will consist of a variety of questions (short answer, mini-essay, etc.). Questions will be drawn from readings, lecture, and films. If a student misses an exam, his/her grade on that exam will drop 5 points for each day that it is not completed. A short summary of a fictional work is also required. The final course grade will be determined as follows:

- Participation / Summary	10%
- First Paper	25%
- Midterm Exam	20%
- Second Paper	25%
- Final Exam	20%

ATTENDANCE: It is imperative that students not miss more than three unexcused class meetings. It is official BCC policy that a student may be dropped from this course for exceeding that limit, at the instructor's discretion. If you are unable to attend class, you **MUST** notify me **BEFORE** the class meets. If special circumstances occur and you must miss an abnormal number of classes or an exam, you **MUST** notify me in advance so that we can discuss appropriate handling of the situation. Students are still responsible for all material, homework, and discussion presented in class if they are absent. Copies of all films will be on reserve at the college library. Get to know your fellow classmates so that if you miss class, you can borrow their notes.

SCHEDULE:

Week 6:	Fri	Oct 11:	First Paper Due
Week 7:	Mon	Oct 14:	NO CLASS – Columbus Day
Week 8:	Wed	Oct 23:	Midterm Exam
Week 11:	Mon	Nov 11:	NO CLASS – Veterans' Day
Week 13:	Mon	Nov 25:	Summary of Fiction Due
Week 13:	Fri	Nov 29:	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break
Week 14:	Fri	Dec 6:	Second Paper Due
Week 15:	Fri	Dec 13:	Final Regular Class Meeting
Week 16:	Wed	Dec 18:	FINAL EXAM – 10:30 am

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Origins: native viewpoints and anthro/science viewpoint, compared & contrasted
- Ethnographic samples: readings from both historical accounts and current anthropological writings, with focus on culture areas (Northeast, Southwest, etc.) and social belief & practice (religion, economics, gender roles, political systems)
- Native prehistory & archaeology (Hopewell, Mississippian, Clovis, Anasazi, Maya)
- Colonial encounters: Spanish, French, British relationships; colonial attitudes & action and native response; Old Southwest & Old Northwest, Cross-Mississippi (Plains, California, Northwest)
- Late 19th & 20th century treatment: government policy, laws, Termination & Relocation
- Contemporary Indian culture: Pan-Indianism, Powwow, activism, Indian Gaming, arts; relationship to "White" America (stereotypes, mascots, "New Age")