

Sociology 321
Contemporary Issues of the American Indian
Spring, 2011

Class Meetings: TR 12:30 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.
 BOL B84
Instructor: Donald E. Green
Office: 706 Bolton
Office Hours: TR 1:45-2:45 or by appointment
Office Phone: 229-4259
E-mail: dgreen@uwm.edu

The Course: This course will employ the sociological perspective to examine the development of the institutional structure of American Indian affairs, current economic and social problems of the American Indian population in the U.S., as well as contemporary manifestations of American Indian Spirit, e.g., activism and cultural experiences transcending institutional structures and problems.

This course meets the UWM General Education Requirements (GER) for these reasons:

Why Contemporary Issues of the American Indian carries GER credit:

This course will employ the sociological perspective to examine the development of the institutional structure of American Indian affairs. Students also will be introduced to the current economic and social problems of the American Indian population and learn alternative sociological theories to better understand their origins and persistence. In addition, the course will introduce students to the various methodologies sociologists use to identify and measure the incidence and persistence of these problems. Finally, students will learn about contemporary manifestations of American Indian Spirit such as political and social activism and cultural experiences that transcend institutional structures and problems.

One Learning Goal of the course is:

Through course readings, examinations, written work, and class discussion, students will learn to how sociologists identify and examine the institutional structure of American Indian affairs and measure the incidence and persistence of social problems among American Indian populations.

Specific Student Work that will Address this Learning Goal is:

Students will be asked to complete a research paper on one aspect of the institutional structure of American Indian Affairs or the incidence and persistence of a particular American Indian social problem.

The Assessment Criteria for this Learning Goal are:

Students' research papers will be assessed on their accurate description of the selected aspect of the institutional structure of American Indian Affairs or the incidence and persistence of social problems among the American Indian populations.

This course also satisfies the GER requirement in minority cultural diversity in American by exposing students to the following material about American Indians:

- 1) introduces students to significant empirical research on the contemporary life experiences and prospects of American Indians;
- 2) analyzes alternative sociological theories and methodologies to describe, explain and evaluate the contemporary life experiences of American Indians;
- 3) increases the students' awareness of transcultural similarities and dissimilarities as well as enhances and extends their ability to make sound empirical generalizations

One of the learning goals is:

Students will be able to describe the contemporary socio-economic status of American Indians relative to Anglo-Americans.

A specific student work that will address this learning goal is:

Students will read and be tested on materials which compare the socio-economic status of American Indians to Anglo-Americans.

The assessment criteria for this learning goal are:

Students must select multiple choice answers that accurately represent the socio-economic status of American Indians relative to Anglo-Americans.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is strongly encouraged, as it affords you the ability to participate in class discussions and small group activities, as well as be exposed to lectures (which may cover materials not included in required readings) and video presentations. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 50 points through class participation.

Examinations: The course will include three 50 point examinations. All examinations will be based on multiple choice questions. A cumulative 50 point final examination will be given during final examination week.

Make-Up Examinations: Make-up examinations will be given only with prior approval by the instructor. Should you miss an examination, be prepared to provide the necessary documentation to account for your absence.

Research Paper: You will be required to complete a research paper on a contemporary issue facing American Indians. Papers will follow the format of a statement of the problem or issue being addressed, a review of the literature on the issue, and a concluding statement that includes suggestions for future research to better understand or resolve the issue. You also will be required to give a short in class presentation of the paper. More discussion of the paper assignment will follow throughout the semester.

Class Grades: Students' grades will be based on the total points obtained on the three 50 point examinations and the class participation score. The breakdown of points in the class is as follows:

Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Paper	50
Final Exam	50
<u>Class Participation</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Points	300

Grades will be distributed according to the following ranges:

94-100 %	A
90-93 %	A-
87-89 %	B+
84-86 %	B
80-83 %	B-
77-79 %	C+
74-76 %	C
70-73 %	C-
67-69 %	D+
64-66 %	D
60-63 %	D-
0-59 %	F

Please Note: Distribution of final grades will be based on the highest point total for the class. There will be no extra-credit opportunities and no deviation from the above breakdowns.

Required Texts:

1. American Indian Politics and the American Political System, Third Edition (2010), David E. Wilkins and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesik Stark. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Lanham, Maryland.

ISBN 1-4422-0388-9 (paperback)

2. Celluloid Indians: Native Americans and Film (1999), Jacquelyn Kilpatrick. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

ISBN0-8032-7790-3 (paperback)

3. Team Spirits: The Native American Mascots Controversy (2001), C. Richard King and Charles Fruehling Springwood, editors. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

ISBN 0-8032-7798-9 (paperback)

COURSE OUTLINE

Part 1: American Indian Politics and the American Political System

Date/Topic/Readings

Jan. 25/Introduction

Jan. 27/Indian people and lands/W-1

Feb. 1/Indian Nations/W-2

Feb. 3/Politics/W-3

Feb. 8/Federal Indian Policy/W-4

Feb. 10/Indigenous Governments/W-5

Feb. 15/Tribal Political Economy/W-6

Feb. 17/Political Participation/W-7

Feb. 22/Interests Groups and Action/W-8

Feb. 24/Images and the Media/W-9

Mar. 1/Review and Conclusions/W-10

Mar. 3/ First Examination

Part 2: American Indians and Film

Mar. 8/ /K-Intro

Mar. 10/ Origins of American Indian Stereotypes/K-1

Mar. 15/Silent Film Images/K-2

COURSE OUTLINE (Cont.)

Mar. 17/Westerns/ K-3

Mar. 21-25/Spring Break

Mar. 29/The 1960s and 1970s/K-4

Mar. 31/The 1980s and 1990s/ K-5

Apr. 5/The American Indian Aesthetic, Coming Attractions/K-6,7

Apr. 7/ Second Examination

Part 3: American Indian Mascots Controversy

Apr. 12/Inventions/KS-Intro, KS-1

Apr. 14/Inventions/KS-2,3,4

Apr. 19/ Whiteness/KS-5,6,7

Apr. 21/Activism/KS-8,9,10

Apr. 26/ Interventions/KS-11,12

Apr. 28/ Complications/KS-13,14

May 3/ Epilogue/Papers Due

May 5/Paper presentations

May 10/Paper presentations

May 12/ Third Examination

May 16 (Monday) Final Examination/12:30-2:30

If you require any special accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course, please contact the Instructor as soon as possible.

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Students with Disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf>

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following:

http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html>

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Procedures for student grade appeal can be found at:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm

Book Royalties. In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology. Update 06/10/2010

