

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE

INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 2270, WINTER 1999

INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE MODERN WORLD

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

Phone: 539-2830 (office), 539-7348 (home)

Office: C215

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11 and Thursdays 10-11 or by appointment. Drop-ins welcome.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Over the last five centuries, many peoples of the world have been reduced to indigenous or cultural minorities in their homelands, experiencing colonization, population decimation, compulsory labor, the loss of land and other vital resources, missionization, miscegenation, etc. Those who escaped the initial onslaught now find their territories invaded by urban refugees and threatened by increasingly efficient means of exploiting natural resources and by environmental devastation. Alternatively, they are forced into urban migration. The penetration of a cash economy, wage employment, modern education and state administrative structures have undermined political and economic autonomy, and the bases of aboriginal culture. For some, the response has been assimilation, but many indigenous peoples are exploring strategies to combat the loss of their traditional ways through cultural revitalization, political mobilization and/or escape.

Class lectures will be devoted to studying significant themes regarding the impact of the modern world on indigenous societies and cultural minorities, using examples from many areas of the world, pointing out differences and similarities. Students will provide specific ethnographic examples by studying two particular cultures in depth, and sharing their findings with other students.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There will be thirteen take-home questions. A total of at least eight answers must be submitted. These are worth 10% each of the final course grade, and are likely to be three to five pages (i.e. up to 1250 words) in length. The best eight marks will be used in calculating the final course grade. Quizzes held throughout the term will be worth 20% of the final course mark, and will be based on readings or in-class activities. Assignments must be handed in to the instructor by 3 p.m. on Friday of the week they are due. Excessive grammatical or spelling errors will result in the loss of 2 out of 9 points.

TEXT

David Maybury-Lewis, 1997, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND THE STATE. Toronto: Allyn and Bacon.

FOR STUDENT USE

You may wish to keep track of your grades here.

TAKE-HOME QUESTIONS

Question #	Grade	Question#	Grade
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QUIZZES (Divide number of correct answers by 4 to calculate your stanine mark)

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L

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COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS (AN APPROXIMATION)

Week 1 ends on the second Friday of the term; Week 13 ends on the Friday of the last week of classes. Try to complete reading assignments before the topic is covered in class. Lectures are intended to clarify and supplement readings, not summarize them. Weekly quizzes and essay topics are based on the readings and class discussions covered that week. They are also cumulative; that is, you are expected to know and incorporate material that has been previously covered. See following pages for further instructions on assignments.

- WEEK 1 Introduction: definition of parameters
Read M-L Preface, Genocide and ethnic cleansing
Ass 1 Summarize M-L's account of the violence in Rwanda and in the ex-Yugoslavia. With the parameters of the course in mind, why are we not studying these situations in detail?
- WEEK 2 World system: globalization, dependency, interconnectedness
Ass 2 Using current media sources, demonstrate the operation of the world system. Provide proper references!
- WEEK 3 States
Read M-L The state
Ass 3 Using current media sources, demonstrate the operation of states. Provide proper references!
- WEEKS 4-5 Ethnographic overview of pre-industrial societies: states, chiefdoms, tribes, villagers, bands
Read M-L Indigenous peoples
Ass 4&5 Ethnography (see below).
- Week 6 Cultural minorities - migration, annexation
Read M-L Ethnic groups
Ass 6 Ethnography (see below).
- Weeks 7-8 Political interaction with the modern state
Ass 7&8 Describe the political situation of one of your people, including their relationships with the state, community political organization, and resistance.

Weeks 9-10 Economic interaction with the modern state

Ass 9-10 Describe the economic situation of one of your people, including their relationships with the state, community economic organization, and resistance.

Weeks 11-12 Social interaction within the modern state

Ass 11-12 Describe the social situation of one of your people, including their relationships with the state, community social organization, and resistance.

Weeks 13-14 Ideological interaction within the modern state

Ass 13-14 Describe the ideological situation of one of your people, including their relationships with the state, community ideological organization, and resistance.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENTS 4, 5 AND 6: you must do 2 of these.

ETHNOGRAPHY

Synthesize the description of a culture and society presented in the ethnography/ies you have read. Focus on the autonomous life of these societies. Factors to consider include:

Ecological adaptation

- geographical location, climate
- productive activities: resources available and used, technological base
- demographic features (size of population, settlement type, population density)

Economic organization

- access to and ownership of resources, e.g. land, animals, tools
- division of labor and/or occupational specialization
- distribution or sharing of production trade and/or tribute

Social organization

- residence/settlement pattern
- type of community; egalitarian or hierarchical society
- family and kinship structure
- marital patterns and practices; gender relations
- non-kin based organizations

Political organization

- type of government and authority structures
- conflict resolution and social control—law, enforcers
- relations w/ neighbors—war, trade

Ideology and/or religion

- art forms
- mythology, deities, forms of worship
- ceremonies and rituals
- knowledge of the natural world (ethno-science)

ASSIGNMENTS 7-14: you must do at least 3 of these, dealing with 3 of the 4 topics, and with both "your" peoples (one per assignment).

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Within the conditions above: up to 2 of your assignments may consist of research papers on particular themes, of which the following may serve as examples. You must consult with me beforehand!

THEMES

colonization
population decimation
compulsory labor
loss of land and vital resources
missionization
miscegenation
invasion of urban refugees
environmental devastation
urban migration
cash economy, wage employment

modern education
national administrative structures
cultural revitalization
political mobilization
military action
substance abuse
spirituality and religion
health: disease, nutrition
cultural industries