Representing Native America (Part 1)

Ethnic Studies 114A  
Ross Frank  
Fall 2014  
Center 207  
E-mail:  
rfrank@weber.ucsd.edu  
class materials may be viewed at: http://pages.ucsd.edu/~rfrank

This course provides an introduction to the history and theory of museum representation of American Indians in order to explore its relation to colonialism and decolonization. In addition to a wide-ranging look at the complex foundations of systems of representing Indians and Indianness, a study of the art of Native California will allow the class to create new approaches to designing a museum exhibition.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Course evaluation will be based on a midterm essay and classroom presentation, a written final research project and classroom presentation, in-class discussions throughout the quarter, and some guiding assignments along the way. Final grade will be based on the following: 25% - attendance and participation during in-class activities; 25% - midterm essay and presentation; 25% research project presentation; 25% - final project report.

COURSE OBLIGATIONS

All students must attend all class meetings and read the assigned materials in order to complete this course. You have a responsibility to create an environment conducive to learning during class meetings and discussion, and to abide by the UCSD Principles of Community. Attendance and participation in discussions held throughout the quarter will count for part of your class grade. These in-class discussions cannot be made up.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are listed in the syllabus for the day that they are due: January 19, February 9, February 15. The Midterm Examination consists of a written essay (5 pages) and an in-class presentation. The Final Examination will consist of an individual or team research project, presented in class, and the written component due during the scheduled exam period.

ASSIGNED READING

The following required book has been ordered for the course and is available at the Bookstore. It has also been placed on reserve in the Geisel Library:


Other readings assigned are available at: http://dss.ucsd.edu/~rfrank or in Roger.
SYLLABUS

The reading(s) that follow each date should be completed before that class meeting. Please come to class prepared to discuss these assigned readings.

PART I The Colonial Roots of Representation

WEEK 0 OCTOBER 2 Introduction and Course Organization

WEEK 1 OCTOBER 7 The Problem of Art


OCTOBER 9 Collecting, Museums, and the Nation State


WEEK 2 OCTOBER 14 Museum of the American Indian Roots


ASSIGNMENT: Familiarize yourself with ArtStor (http://libraries.ucsd.edu/locations/arts/resources/find-image-collections/index.html) and its Native American image holdings. ArtStor must be accessed the first time from campus. After that you may logon remotely using UCSD’s VPN (http://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/network/connections/off-campus/VPN/).
PART II    The Decolonizing Project

OCTOBER 16    Disruptive Histories


WEEK 3    OCTOBER 21    Alternative Epistemologies


MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED

OCTOBER 23    Reading Absences


WEEK 4 OCTOBER 28 Midterm Reports

MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DUE

PART III Problems of the Present

OCTOBER 30 Thinking About Tribal Museums


Exhibit Press Articles folder

WEEK 5 NOVEMBER 4 NMAI - Take I


ASSIGNMENT: Native Women Artists in California

NOVEMBER 6 NMAI - Take II


Lonetree, Amy. *Decolonizing Museums Representing Native America in National and Tribal Museums.* 2012, Chapter 4, 123-167. Restricted to UCSD.
WEEK 6 NOVEMBER 11 NMAI - Take III


ASSIGNMENT: Native California Women Artists

PART IV What To Do With Native Women’s Art in California

NOVEMBER 13 California Historical Beginnings


WEEK 7  NOVEMBER 18  An Art Historical View
(Chapter 7: Native Art From 1900-1980 [The Twentieth Century]), 242-291 [208-239].


ASSIGNMENT: Assemble Final Project Teams and begin to define areas of research.

NOVEMBER 20  Native California “Arts and Crafts”

WEEK 8  NOVEMBER 25  The Tourist and the Captive

NOVEMBER 27  THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

WEEK 9  DECEMBER 2  Contemporary Native Art Perspectives

DECEMBER 4  Arts of Survivance
PART V   Conclusions

WEEK 10   DECEMBER 9  Class Presentations and Discussions I
DECEMBER 11  Class Presentations and Discussions II

FINAL PROJECT DUE   FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2:30PM