ETHN 110: Cultural World Views of Indigenous America
University of California San Diego
Spring 2018

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursdays, 8:00-9:20am
Meeting Location: Solis 111

Justin de Leon, Ph.D.
Office hours: Tuesday, 11:00am-1:00pm
Office location: SSB243
judeleon@ucsd.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore Native Americans/indigenous people's ways of living, knowing, and understanding the world in relation to settler-immigrant societies in North America. You will be encouraged to explore the contents of your own worldview, with its attendant convictions and foundations. Students gain analytical tools for thinking about world views through themes of cosmology, land, kinship, and identity formation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through this course, students will be able to:
• Identify key aspects to Indigenous worldviews
• Gain a sense of the contemporary dynamics of settler colonialism
• Articulate the principle elements of their personal worldview
• Appreciate how a conceptual framework can contribute to engaging in social action

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:

Students will be expected to participate the course in an active and engaged manner. Much like any endeavor taken up at UCSD, meaningful and full participation is necessary for success and is expected. An aim of this course is to engage themes in an academic and practical manner.

We will be dealing with issues that have significant individual and community implications, aside from theoretical understandings. Bringing outside understandings and experiences is necessary and encouraged.

There will be no midterm or final in-class examinations and students are not expected to purchase any material for the course. All course material will be supplied through TritonED. Grades will be comprised of: (1) participation, (2) a Pre-Class Response, (3) engagement with their community of practice, and (4) Final Project.
1. **Participation** (30%) is comprised of class attendance and engagement of the readings and class discussion. Students are expected to contribute to ongoing discussions and explorations of class material and themes. This requires a deep reading of assignments (through annotating, summarizing, and noting questions that arise) and participation in class discussions (recall in both quality and frequency). Because of the number of students in the course, class attendance will be taken. If there is an unexpected occurrence and/or excused absence (University activity, medical reasons, religious holidays, etc.) please inform me as soon as possible in order that proper adjustments can be made.

2. **Pre-Class Response** (10%) is a three-page paper that answers the following: What are you most passionate about? What do you see your purpose in life is? After which point students should attempt to identify and define various aspects of their own personal conceptual framework/worldview (this can include, but not limited to, spirituality/religion, cultural upbringing, personal experiences, developed convictions, etc.). This is due by the end of the day on Friday, April 6, 2018.

3. **Communities of Practice** (30%) are self-formed groups of students that have to do with a particular interest and will be meeting at least three times over the quarter. This can be epistemic (as in dealing with your major), professional (such as wanting to go into public health, medicine, law, economics, engineering, social work, teaching, etc.), cultural, or any other types of communities. The purpose of these communities is to engage in cross-disciplinary dialogue as a means to improve, critique, recast various practices within each community. Communities of Practice can act as a way to transform society in a diffuse manner. Each student will be required to write a 2-page report/reflection about each meeting. Each reflection will be 10% of your grade.

4. The **Final Project** (30%) can either be (1) a six-page paper, (3) a creative exploration, or (3) a social action. Options #2 and #3 must be submitted with an accompanying two-page report/reflection. Students wanting to do a creative exploration or social action must get their project approved before carrying it out.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Pre-Class Reflections**

Tuesday, April 3, 2017
No Class Meeting
Work on Pre-Class Response

Thursday, April 5, 2017
No Class Meeting
Work on Pre-Class Response

Pre-Class Response: What are you most passionate about? What do you see as your purpose in life? Identify and define various aspects of their own personal conceptual framework/worldview. Due by the end of the day on Friday, April 6th.
**Week 2: UCSD, Native Americans and Kinship**

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*


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*Thursday, April 12, 2018*


Formation of Communities of Practice

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**Week 3: Psychological Experiences of Genocide**

*Communities of Practice #1 meet sometime this week*

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*


*Thursday, April 19, 2018*


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**Week 4: Representation and Societies**

*Tuesday, April 24, 2017*


Communities of Practice Reflection #1 Due before end of day.

*Thursday, April 26, 2017*

**Week 5: California Dispossession and Violence**

Tuesday, May 1, 2018


Thursday, May 3, 2018
Review of Reflections, social action, and Communities of Practice

**Week 6: Cosmology & Metaphysics**

*Communities of Practice #2 meet sometime this week*

Tuesday, May 8, 2018


Thursday, May 10, 2018


**Week 7: Spirituality, Prayer, & The Sacred**
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Communities of Practice Reflection #2 Due before end of day.

Thursday, May 17, 2017
LaDuke, Winona, Recovering the Sacred (Cambridge MA: South End Press, 2005)


Week 8: Constructive Resilience, US Applicable?
Communities of Practice #3 meet sometime this week

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Thursday, May 24, 2018
Week 9: Humor and Animals
Tuesday, May 29, 2018

1491's Native Comedy Group
- The Indian Store [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuzPoidV4nI]
- More Indianer than You [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGCFFS7x74]
- Singing Lessons [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ89HBfaLS4]
- N4 Indian Shoes [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20_0KBjnxX8]


Thursday, May 31, 2018


Communities of Practice Reflection #3 Due before end of day.

Week 10: Time, History, & Creativity
Tuesday, June 5, 2018


Thursday, June 7, 2018


Recreating the American Dream Video

Finals
TBD