Ethnic Studies 189: Winter Quarter 2010

Indigenous Cosmologies in a Comparative Perspective

Instructor: Maria Teresa Ceseña
Email: mcesena@ucsd.edu
Class time: Tues/Thurs 8:00-9:20 a.m. (Solís109)
Office hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30-11:00 a.m. AND by appointment (SSB 241)

Course Description

“This interdisciplinary course examines the emergence of global indigeneity as a framework of politics and resistance, exploring distinctive worldviews from various communities and tribes with a particular focus on indigenous rights and representation. With special emphasis on Native American and Chicana/o epistemologies, this course will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to culture industry, dance, art, song, folk narratives, oral histories, religious and medicinal rituals.

Required Texts: Available at Groundwork


****All other readings will be posted on WebCt.ucsd.edu or made available in class****

Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.

Course Grade Breakdown

Attendance and Participation………………………………………..20%
“Optional Reading” Presentation/Discussion…………………………20%
Midterm Exam…………………………………………………………25%
Final Project Proposal…………………………………………………..10%
Final Project……………………………………………………………..25%
Extra Credit (Optional)…………………………………………………..(Possible 3 grade points)
Attendance and Participation: (20 %) This portion of your grade is based on not only attending class, but also contributing to class discussions with your thoughts, questions, and analyses. May include short response papers, quizzes, etc. I encourage you to share any relevant personal examples, outside readings, media productions, etc. if they relate to the readings and course themes.

“Optional Reading” Presentation/Discussion: (20%) Each week, in addition to the required readings, there will be a list of “Optional Readings” to choose from to present to the class. The student responsible for that day’s presentation/discussion must come bring in questions to spark discussion among their classmates or prepare a media presentation to share with the rest of the class. Each presentation/discussion should last approximately 15 minutes. Depending on the number of students taking the course, students may choose to work individually or in pairs. If you work with a partner, the pair of you must choose two readings. Individuals will choose one reading.

Midterm Exam: (25%) Will consist of short answers and essay questions and will be given in-class on Tuesday 1/26/10. Please Bring a Bluebook!

Final Project (25%) and Proposal (10%): You will choose one of the weekly course themes and prepare either a written research paper around that theme OR an audiovisual production that you will present to the class. The detailed instructions for this assignment will be handed out in class on Thursday 1/19/10. You must submit a project proposal for approval by Thursday 1/21/10. The proposal should be approx. 1-2 pages and will be graded on how clearly you describe your proposed project. The final project will be due on the last day of class, Thursday 3/11/10.

Extra Credit (Optional) (Possible 3 extra credit points)

In order to receive the full 3 points you must 1) attend this symposium, 2) prepare a 2-3 page report on the event, and 3) you must sign-in with me during the event.

Unthinking the Nation-State: An Indigenous Studies Symposium
Friday, January 15, Cross Cultural Center, Comunidad Room
Reception prior to event at 2:00pm

For more information please visit the following website: http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu/

ADA Statement: If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirement of this course, you should inform me as soon as possible of your needs. I will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you need to notify me in writing within one week of receiving it.

Principles of Community: The nature of this course requires that we discuss topics/issues that some may find unfamiliar, controversial, and/or sensitive. I encourage all of you to share your thoughts and opinions, but to do so respectfully. If/when you disagree with what is being said or presented, you should present your counter-critique of the idea, not the person presenting it. Personal attacks will not be tolerated. For a full list and explanation of the UCSD Principles of community go to: http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm
COURSE SCHEDULE  
Subject to Change

Week One  Indigeneity and Cosmology


Jan. 6 (TH)  Uhlig, Anne. “Deafhood and Indianness: Indigeneity as a Cultural Construction” Presentation given at the American Indian Workshop, Tromsø, May 2008 (1-9)

Week Two  Global Indigeneity


Jan. 14 (Th)  Ch. 2 “The Origins of the International Movement of Indigenous Peoples” (29-52)

Optional Readings:


Week Three  Global Indigenous Rights

Jan. 19(T)  Niezen, Ronald
  Ch. 3 “Relativism and Rights” (94-144)


PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE

Optional Readings:
Week Four  Native Sovereignty


Optional Readings:

Week Five  Neoliberalism and Indigenous Identity

Feb. 2 (T)  MIDTERM EXAM

Feb. 4 (TH)  “Zapatistas! Documents of the New Mexican Revolution.” http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/ Zapatistas/ (Beginning through Chapter 2)

Optional Readings:

Week Six  Chicana/o Indigeneity


Feb. 11 (TH)  Ch. 1 “The Terror of Postcolonial History: Eternal Returns in the Borderlands” 23-58

Optional Readings:

### Week Seven

**Performance and Healing**


**Optional Readings:**


### Week Eight

**Ecology and Resistance**

Feb. 23 (T)  Forbes, Jack D. “Nature and Culture: Problematic Concepts for Native Americans” (103-123)


**Optional Readings:**

2) Bernal-Garcia, María Elena. “The Life and Bounty of the Mesoamerican Sacred Mountain” 325-349.

### Week Nine

**Indigeneity and the Academy**


**Optional Readings:**


**Week Ten**

**Indigenous Rights Revisited**


**FINAL PROJECT DUE**

**Optional Readings:**