Representing Native America (Part 1)

Ethnic Studies 114A
Winter 2012
TU, TH 11:00 AM—12:20 PM
Office: SSB 227
Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-3:00, Thu. 1:00-2:00
WLH 2208
E-mail: rfrank@weber.ucsd.edu
Phone: 534-6646

class materials may be viewed at: http://dss.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 Plains Indian drawings from 1860-1890 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 1  JANUARY 10  Introduction and Course Organization

JANUARY 12  The Problem of Art


WEEK 2  JANUARY 17  Collecting, Museums, and the Nation State


JANUARY 19  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

WEEK 3 JANUARY 24 Disruptive Histories


JANUARY 26 Alternative Epistemologies


MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DISTRUBUTED

WEEK 4 JANUARY 31 Reading Absences


FEBRUARY 2 Midterm Reports

MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DUE
PART III  The Problems of the Present

WEEK 5  FEBRUARY 7  Thinking About Tribal Museums


Exhibit Press Articles folder

FEBRUARY 9  NMAI - Take I


ASSIGNMENT: Familiarize yourself with the Plains Indian Ledger Art Digital Publishing Project (PILA) @ plainsledgerart.org. Register for an account and begin to try out the various capabilities of the web site.

WEEK 6  FEBRUARY 14  NMAI - Take II


FEBRUARY 16  NMAI - Take III  (week 6 continued)


ASSIGNMENT:  Using the PILA (plainsledgerart.org) research bench, enter personal research notes and public comments, upload images to personal and public galleries, and create a slideshow.

PART IV  What To Do With Plains Indian Ledger Art

WEEK 7  FEBRUARY 21  Narrative and Meaning: Art and the Plains Indian World View


Ledger Art Press Articles folder

FEBRUARY 23  An Art Historical View
(Chapter 7: The Twentieth Century) 208-239.


ASSIGNMENT:  Assemble Final Project Teams and begin to define areas of research.
WEEK 8 FEBRUARY 28 Ledger Art as Literary Narrative

MARCH 1 Ledger Art as History

WEEK 9 MARCH 6 The Tourist and the Captive

MARCH 8 Arts of Survivance

PART V

WEEK 10 MARCH 13 Class Presentations and Discussions I
MARCH 15 Class Presentations and Discussions II

FINAL PROJECT DUE Thursday, MARCH 22, 2:30PM