

Ethnic Studies 189: Winter Quarter 2010  
**Indigenous Cosmologies in a Comparative Perspective**

Instructor:	Maria Teresa Ceseña
Email:	<a href="mailto:mcesena@ucsd.edu">mcesena@ucsd.edu</a>
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

1) Niezen, Ronald. *The Origins of Indigenism: Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

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

**Majoring or Minor 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 [vescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:vescamilla@ucsd.edu).

**Course Grade Breakdown**

Attendance and Participation.....	20%
“Optional Reading” Presentation/Discussion.....	20%
Midterm Exam.....	25%
Final Project Proposal.....	10%
Final Project.....	25%
<b>Extra Credit (Optional).....</b>	<b>(Possible 3 grade points)</b>

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. 5(T)                      Introduction to course themes/expectations.  
Film: "Welcome Home: The Grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian." *Smithsonian Institution* (2005).
- 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)  
Grim, John A Ed. *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology: The Interbeing of Cosmology and Community*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. "Introduction" and "Prologue" (xxxiii-lxiv)

### **Week Two**                      **Global Indigeneity**

- Jan. 12 (T)                      Niezen, Ronald. *The Origins of Indigenism: Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.  
Ch. 1 "A New Global Phenomenon?" (1-28)
- Jan. 14 (Th)                      Ch. 2 "The Origins of the International Movement of Indigenous Peoples" (29-52)

#### ***Optional Readings:***

Dei, George J. Sefa. "African Development: The Relevance and Implications of 'Indigenusness'." *Indigenous Knowledges in Global Contexts: Multiple Readings of Our World*. Eds. Budd L. Hall, Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg and George J. Sefa Dei. Toronto; Buffalo: OISE/UT, University of Toronto Press, 2000. 70-86.

### **Week Three**                      **Global Indigenous Rights**

- Jan. 19(T)                      Niezen, Ronald  
Ch. 3 "Relativism and Rights" (94-144)
- Jan. 21 (TH)                      UN Human Rights Council- Resolution 2006/2. "Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of the General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December, 1994

#### **PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

#### ***Optional Readings:***

Smith, Claire, Heather Burke, and Graeme K. Ward. "Globalisation and Indigenous Peoples: Threat or Empowerment?" *Indigenous Cultures in an Interconnected World*. Eds. Graeme Ward and Claire Smith. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2000. 1-24.

**Week Four**                      **Native Sovereignty**

Jan. 26 (T)                      Alfred, Taiaiake. "Sovereignty." *Sovereignty Matters: Locations of Contestation and Possibility in Indigenous Struggles for Self-Determination*. Ed. Joanne Barker. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. (33-50)

Jan. 28 (TH)                      Smith, Andrea. *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. Cambridge: South End Press, 2005.  
-Ch. 8 "U.S. Empire and the War Against Native Sovereignty." (177-191)

***Optional Readings:***

- 1)Gross, Lawrence William. "Cultural Sovereignty and Native American Hermeneutics in the Interpretation of the Sacred Stories of the Anishanaabe." *Wicazo Sa Review* 18.2 (2003):127-34
- 2)Biolsi, Thomas. "Imagined Geographies: Sovereignty, Indigenous Space, and American Indian Struggle." *American Ethnologist* 32.2 (2005): 239-59.

**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:***

Sawyer, Suzana. "Neoliberal Ironies." *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism In Ecuador*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. (91-117)

**Week Six**                      **Chicana/o Indigeneity**

Feb. 9 (T)                      León, Luis D. *La Llorona's Children: Religion, Life, and Death in the U.S. Mexican Borderlands*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.  
- "[Introduction] In Search of La Llorona's Children: Reimagining Religion" (1-21)

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

***Optional Readings:***

Pérez-Torres, Rafael. "Narrative and Loss." *Mestizaje: Critical Uses of Race in Chicano Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006: 195-219.

## **Week Seven**

### **Performance and Healing**

- Feb. 16 (T) Ceseña, Maria Teresa. "Creating Agency and Identity in Danza Azteca." *Dancing Across Borders: Danzas y Bailes Mexicanos*. Nájera-Ramirez, Olga, Norma E. Cantú, and Brenda M. Romero, Eds. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009.(80-94)
- Feb. 18 (Th) Begay, David H. and Nancy C. Maryboy. "The Whole Universe Is My Cathedral: A Contemporary Navajo Spiritual Synthesis" *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, New Series, Vol. 14, No. 4, Issue: Ritual Healing in Navajo Society (Dec., 2000): 498-520

#### ***Optional Readings:***

Medina, Laura. "Communing with the Dead: Spiritual and Cultural Healing in Chicano/a Communities." *Religion and Healing in America*. Barnes, Linda and Susan S. Sered, Eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.(205- 215)

## **Week Eight**

### **Ecology and Resistance**

- Feb. 23 (T) Forbes, Jack D. "Nature and Culture: Problematic Concepts for Native Americans" (103-123)
- Feb. 25 (Th) Silva, Javier Garcia. "Religion, Ritual, and Agriculture among Present-Day Nahua of Mesoamerica." (303-323)

#### ***Optional Readings:***

- 1)Gonzales, Tirso A. and Melissa K. Nelson. "Contemporary Native American Responses to Environmental Threats in Indian Country" 495-538.
- 2) Bernal-Garcia, María Elena. "The Life and Bounty of the Mesoamerican Sacred Mountain" 325-349.

## **Week Nine**

### **Indigeneity and the Academy**

- Mar. 2 (T) Couture, Joseph. "Native Studies and the Academy." *Indigenous Knowledges in Global Contexts: Multiple Readings of Our World*. Eds. Budd L. Hall, Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg and George J. Sefa Dei. Toronto; Buffalo: OISE/UT, in association with University of Toronto Press, 2000. 157-67.
- Mar. 4 (Th) Smith, Andrea. "American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State." *American Quarterly*. Vol. 60, No. 2 (Jun., 2008) :309-315

#### ***Optional Readings:***

- 1) Battiste, Marie Ann, and James Youngblood Henderson. *Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: A Global Challenge*. Saskatoon, Sask. :Purich Pub., 2000, Part I: The Lodge of the Indigenous Knowledge in Modern Thought: 21-56.
- 2) Cook-Lynn, Elizabeth. "Postcolonial Scholarship Defames the Native Voice: Academic Genocide." *Anti-Indianism in Modern America: A Voice from Tatekeya's Earth*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001. 196-210.

**Week Ten     Indigenous Rights Revisited**

- Mar. 9 (T)     Williams, Robert A., Jr. "Encounters on the Frontiers of International Human Rights Law: Redefining the Terms of Indigenous Peoples' Survival in the World." *Duke Law Journal* 1990.4 (1990):660-704. <http://links.jstor.org/sci?sici=0012-7086%28199009%292%3A4%3C660%3AEOTFOI%E2.0CO%B2-4>
- Mar. 11 (Th)     Wilkins, David E. , and K. Tsianiana Lomawaima. " 'Such an Outrage': The Doctrine of Plenary Power." *Uneven Ground: American Indian Sovereignty and Federal Law*. Eds. David E. Wilkins and K. Tsianina Lomawaima. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001. 98-116.

**FINAL PROJECT DUE**

***Optional Readings:***

Yazzie, Chief Justice Robert "Navajo Peacemaking and Intercultural Dispute Resolution." *Intercultural Dispute Resolution in Aboriginal Contexts*. Eds. Catherine Bell and David Kahane. Vancouver, BC: University of British Colombia Press, 2004. 107-115.