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ENST 594.06: Environmental Issues of Native Americans

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LaPier, Rosalyn R., "ENST 594.06: Environmental Issues of Native Americans" (2013). *Syllabi*. 694.
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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Spring 2013

Rosalyn LaPier
T/TH 8:10 - 9:30am
ENST 594, 3 Credits

Office Hours: T/TH 10am - 11am, JRH 016
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an overview of environmental issues related to Native Americans (in the West) during the 19th and 20th centuries, focusing on three topics: land, water, and minerals.

PURPOSE: This is a graduate readings seminar in Environmental Studies. This course serves as an overview of the literature regarding environmental issues and Native peoples. It will be interdisciplinary, focusing on both historic and current literature, written by journalists, anthropologists, historians, ecologists and others. We will address the following questions during the course of the semester, both directly and indirectly. What role does Environmental Studies play for people in and/or working in Native communities? What are the major environmental issues in Native communities – currently, historically?

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course the student will be able to;

- 1) Read, analyze, and summarize course materials. Articulate in speaking and writing the issues related to environmental studies and Native communities.
- 2) Write an effective book review based on common criteria of an academic journal.
- 3) Write a literature review indicating control of both the content and the literature related to Native American communities and environment in the West.

SCHEDULE:

Week 1 January 29, 31: Introduction

Week 2 February 5, 7: Prehistory

Common Review: Crosby, *Columbian Exchange*

Week 3 February 12, 14: Prehistory

Reviews: #1 Brink. *Imagining Head Smashed In*.
#2 Binnema. *Common and Contested Ground*.
#3 Mann. *1491*.
#4 Diamond. *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

Week 4 February 19, 21: Land

Common Review: Lewis. *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*

Week 5 February 26, 28: Land

- Reviews:
- #1 Debo. *And Still the Waters Run*.
 - #2 Clark. *Lone Wolf*.
 - #3 Warren. *The Hunter's Game*.
 - #4 Spence. *Dispossessing the Wilderness*.

Week 6 March 5, 7: Land

- Reviews:
- #1 Beck. *Seeking Recognition*.
 - #2 Gordon-McCutchan, *The Taos Indians*
 - #3 Harmon. *The Power of Promises*.
 - #4 Clow & Sutton. *Trusteeship in Change*.

Week 7 March 12, 14: Water

Common: Van Develder. *Coyote Warrior*.

Week 8 March 19, 21: Water

- Reviews:
- #1 McCool. *Command of the Waters*.
 - #2 Ulrich. *Empty Nets: Indians, Dams and Columbia River*
 - #3 Pisani. *To Reclaim a Divided West*.
 - #4 Lawson. *Damned Indians Revisited*.

Week 9 March 26, 28: Water

- Reviews:
- #1 Matsui. *Native Peoples, Water Rights*.
 - #2 Sander. *Yuma Reclamation Project*.
 - #3 Glenn. *Once Upon an Oldman*.
 - #4 Richardson. *Strangers Devour Land*.

Literature Review topic abstract and list of sources due Tuesday, March 26

Week 10 April 1-5: **Spring Break**

Week 11 April 9, 11: Minerals

Common Review: Pasternak. *Yellow Dirt*.

Week 12 April 16, 18: Minerals

- Reviews:
- #1 Ambler. *Breaking the Iron Bonds*
 - #2 Fixico. *Invasion of Indian Country*.
 - #3 LaDuke. *All My Relations*.
 - #4 Crosby. *Children of the Sun*.

Week 13 April 23, 25: Minerals

- Reviews:
- #1 Bressett. *Walleye Warriors*.

- #2 Braun. *Buffalo, Inc.*
- #3 Klare. *The Race for What's Left.*
- #4 Nikiforuk. *Tar Sands.*

Week 14 April 30, May 1: Ancient Values

Common Review: Fikret. Sacred Ecology

Week 15 May 7, 9: Ancient Values

- Reviews:
- #1 Basso. *Wisdom Sits in Places.*
 - #2 Nabhan. *Gathering the Desert.*
 - #3 Turner. *The Earths Blanket.*
 - #4 Grossman & Parker (ed.). *Asserting Native Resilience.*

LITERATURE REVIEW DUE Tuesday May 7

GRADING:

Class Participation: 30

Book Reviews (in common): 25 (5 @ 5 points)

Book Reviews & Presentation (individual): 25 (5 @ 5 points)

Abstract and bibliography for Literature Review: 5

Literature Review: 15

GRADING: Final Grade based on a percentage of Total Points (100).

	93-100: A	90-92: A-
87-89: B+	83-86: B	80-82: B-
77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	63-66: D	60-62: D-
60-0: F		

The work you submit for grading must be your own original work, written by you specifically for this course. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in **automatic failure of the course**, and may result in **further academic punishment**.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Class participation. Attend each class and participate in group discussion.

Common Book Reviews and Discussion: Read five (5) books in common. Following the guidelines of Environmental History, write individual book reviews of each book. Please go to the website (<http://environmentalhistory.net/submit/>) and read the rules for submitting a book review. Follow the same rules -- with one exception -- from week to week word length will vary.

Book reviews are due at the beginning of class.

Each student will also lead class discussion of one common book.

Individual Book Reviews and Presentation: Read five (5) additional books from the syllabus and present book to the class, write a book review for each (see above). **Book reviews are due at the beginning of class.** Plus make one (1) copy for each person in class, pass out at the beginning of class.

Presentations will be graded on content, organization, preparation, and delivery. **You must make the presentation on the day assigned or you will receive a 0 for the assignment.**

Literature Review: Select what you think is a significant issue in Indian country related to environmental issues. Abstract and source list due March 26, 2013. Write a literature review on the topic showing a mastery of the literature relating to the topic you choose. 2,500-3,000 words (10-12 pages), typed, double spaced. Final paper due Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Late Assignments: All late assignments will be grade down one (1) point from the moment they are due, and then one (1) point per day thereafter.

ATTENDANCE

"Students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments for courses in which they are enrolled." <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy>.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

"Being a student at UM presupposes a commitment to the principles and policies embodied in the Code." http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES

Appropriate accommodations will be made by the University pursuant to the policies of the Disability Student Services, <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

"All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php."

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Alfred Crosby, *Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2003.

Jack Brink. *Imagining Head Smashed In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains*, Edmonton: Alberta University Press, 2009.

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- Marjane Ambler. *Breaking the Iron Bonds: Indian Control of Energy Development*. University Press of Kansas, 1990.
- Donald Fixico. *The Invasion of Indian Country in the Twentieth Century: American Capitalism and Tribal Natural Resources*. Boulder: University of Colorado, 2012.
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