Course Syllabus
Anthropology Through Film
Native American Issues, Voices and Perspectives
ANT 4009 –U01     Fall  2009  Wednesdays 1:00-3:50
GC 286.  Maidique Campus
Version of August 26, 2009

Course Overview
Through films and Internet media this course explores major issues of contemporary indigenous peoples of America while learning fundamental concepts in anthropology. Each class meeting we will view award-winning films made for theaters, television and documentaries. Films written, produced or acted in by native peoples express the issues and perspectives that they consider important.

Readings written by indigenous peoples complement the films and focus our discussion on the issues of ethnic identity, tribal sovereignty, environmental pollution, economic development, health disparities, human rights, spirituality, religious freedom, sacred lands, language retention, music, art and dance. Primary emphasis is on Native North Americans.

Anthropological perspectives highlight the comparative method for understanding myth, ritual, traditional healing, kinship, gender, social stratification, racism, commodification of ethnicity, culture change, religious revitalization, artistic innovation, modernization, globalization, and sustainable communities.

Course Objectives
1. Gain an awareness of the scope and complexity of human diversity.

2. Be familiar with an array of anthropological perspectives and methods.

3. Understand the production of knowledge and the role of multimedia in presenting Indigenous views.

4. Appreciate the economic, health, environmental, political and legal issues that have been and continue to influence the everyday lives of contemporary Native Americans.

5. Recognize the effects of culture change, modernization and globalization on peoples of the world.

Instructor
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist
Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
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Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 to 5:00 and by appointment.
Email: Wiedmand@fiu.edu   Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
Email communication should be within Blackboard.
   I try to respond to emails within three days.
Class Meetings
Most of the class time will be devoted to viewing films. In-class discussions where students interpret and critique the films promotes class participation. This requires that assignments be completed in an informed, thoughtful and constructive manner before each class session. It also requires that students arrive on time and contribute to a classroom ambience of mutual respect, support, exploration, and learning. Attendance facilitates success.

Required Readings
LaDuke, Winona

Films
Most of the selected films and videos will be on reserve in the University Park library for your viewing outside of class. The FIU Sound and Image Resources department is on the fifth floor of the Green library. To view a listing of the films from the FIU library main page, click on “Course Reserves,” to the left of the entry window, http://library.fiu.edu. Enter “Wiedman” for instructor. If you are working from home or a non-university computer, you must first sign into the FIU Library by selecting “Off-Campus Access” on the far top right of the library main page. Enter the student number that is on the back of your Panther ID card.

WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS – Blackboard C6.
Specific information for course assignments is posted in Blackboard throughout the semester. Blackboard supports the student learning experience with related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Student computers need Internet Explorer, MS Word, and Adobe Reader for pdf files.

Content: Contains important course information.
Email: Send emails to selected individuals using the drop down list.
   Email the instructor only within Blackboard Email.
Discussions: Here you can send your comments to everyone in the class for discussion.
   Compose your item within a specific topic or for a new item post it in “Main.”
Announcements: This is where the instructor communicates with the students.
   It is important to read everything posted here.

Internet access can be through any computer. Computers in the FIU computer labs and the library are available for your use. Begin Blackboard by clicking on “Blackboard/CE6” from bottom of FIU main page.
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Course Requirements
Final grades are based on the following components, all of which must be completed in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade.

1. Exercises are in-class and out-of-class assignments that enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their writing and presentation skills. Most are short essays. Best scores are awarded for perfect punctuation, format, and logic. In-class exercises are the instructor’s way of providing regular feedback to students.

2. Exams enable the student to demonstrate an understanding of the subject by focusing on class lectures, films, readings, and special presentations up to prior class meeting. Exams are composed of matching, multiple choice, true & false, word identifications, essays, etc. Two exams are scheduled; these are 45 to 60 minutes in length. Legitimate reasons for not taking the exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date. Students with a written medical excuse must take the exam before the next class meeting; others receive one letter grade less then the other exam score.

3. Fieldtrip Essay: A group field trip to the Miccosukee or Seminole Reservation will be a highlight of the course. Earn up to 5 points by writing a 250 word description/analysis of your experience.

Classroom Etiquette: During class time cell phones must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous and informed participation is highly desired.

Attendance: In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are designed to promote attendance.

Style and Format: All written assignments must be in the format and style used by the American Anthropologist. Style guidelines are available on-line “Writing Professional Research Papers Using the Style of the American Anthropologist.” Use MS Word, double space using 1 inch top, bottom, and side margins. Use Times Roman 12 point font. Do not use footnotes. Endnotes and “Reference Cited” sections should follow text. Simply staple pages together, do not use a binder or fancy cover. Do not use separate cover page. Place name, course title and date single-spaced on top of first page. Name should appear on the top of each page. Bottom center page numbers.

Timeliness: Printed exercises and essays are due within 10 minutes of the beginning of the class on the due date; electronic versions are due in Turn-it-in at 8:00 am the morning of the due date. Papers received within 24 hours receive one letter grade less than earned, thereafter they receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. These will not be accepted after two weeks of the deadline. Both printed and electronic versions of the papers are necessary in order to receive a grade. Extra credits and any late assignments must be submitted by November 24.
Anthropology Through Film: Wiedman. Fall 2009

Turnitin.com: Out of class exercises and the extra credit course paper must be submitted through www.turnitin.com. From the Turnitin main page begin by creating a user profile. Once created, then sign-in using the Course Number and the Password provided in Blackboard: Instructions.

Optional Ways to Get a Better Grade
Students who want to ensure a better grade can 1) write an optional course essay and, if they care to, 2) produce a PowerPoint presentation based on this research. The instructor then invites selected students to 3) present their PowerPoint research before the class.

1) Optional Research Essay: A 7 to 15 page essay demonstrates your skills in research methods, analysis and writing. Topic selection and methods are discussed in class and will be posted in Blackboard:Instructions. A two-page essay proposal that includes your research methods and published sources must be submitted by the scheduled date. Proposal and essay are worth up to 10 extra points. Changing topics requires resubmission of a new proposal. Web pages are not acceptable as authoritative sources.

2) Optional PowerPoint for students completing Optional Research Essay
Students doing a research essay can produce a PowerPoint Presentation based on their research to earn up to 2 extra points. Provide the instructor with the PowerPoint presentation via Blackboard assignments. Be sure to reduce the pixel size of the graphic images so that the file is not too large to submit via Blackboard. CDs or thumb drives are not acceptable given the chance for viruses.

3) Optional PowerPoint Presentation before the class: The Instructor will preview the PowerPoints submitted and invite selected students to present their work before the class. Presentations can earn up to three additional points.

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<tr>
<th>GRADING</th>
<th>FINAL GRADE CALCULATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>Grand Total Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>A  = 95 - 100</td>
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<td>Fieldtrip Essay</td>
<td>A- = 90 - 94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercises *</td>
<td>B+ = 87 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>B = 84 - 86</td>
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<td>B- = 80 - 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional: Earn points up to:</td>
<td>C+ = 77 - 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>C = 74 -76</td>
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<td>PowerPoint Presentation</td>
<td>D = 64 – 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to Class</td>
<td>D- = 60 – 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>F = 59 or less</td>
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* At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than 20 points. Exercise Points are calculated using the following formula: A) Total points received divided by B) Total possible points times 20 = C) Exercise Points Earned. (A / B) x 20 = C
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Academic Ethics

It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work material provided by a professional research agency, the Internet, or other persons. It is considered “plagiarism” to not cite the sources of your information. All sources must be identified in-text and in a “References Cited” section using the style of the American Anthropologist. Student’s who violate these principles receive a grade of “F” for the course. Written exercises and papers must be submitted to “Turnitin.com” for an assessment of originality. The instructor has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences.

Course Topic and Assignment Schedule

Readings refer to Winona LaDuke 2005, “Recovering the Sacred.”

Italicized film titles are tentative. Call numbers are for the FIU Library Media Reserve.

Class One: Wednesday August 26
  Course Introduction
  Blackboard Introduction
  Native America, Identity, US Relations & Current Issues

Class Two: September 2
  Identity and Gender
    Miss Navajo. 58 minutes. 2008
    Exercise: Student Introduction Essay.
    Readings: LaDuke pages 1-18.

Class Three: September 9
  Music, Dance and Art
    World of Native American Dance. 50 Minutes. E98.D2 W67 2003
    Readings: LaDuke pages 19-46.

Class Four: September 16
  Globalization, Colonization and Assimilation
    Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee 132 minutes. 2008
    Readings: LaDuke pages 47-66.

Class Five: September 23
  Health and Wellbeing
    The Gift of Diabetes RC 660.4 G54 2005
    Readings: LaDuke pages 67-86.
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Class Six: September 30
Family, Reservation Issues, Age Transitions
Smoke Signals. 89 Minutes. PN 1997 .S566
Readings: LaDuke pages 87-112.

Class Seven: October 7
Spirituality, Story Telling, Elder & Youth Relations
Dream Keeper. 180 minutes. PN 1997.2 .D74 2004
Readings: LaDuke pages 113-130.

Class Eight: October 14
Philosophy and Cosmology
Your Humble Serpent. 60 minutes. E99.W7 Y68 1996
Readings: LaDuke pages 131-150.
Mid-term Exam 1 at beginning of class

Class Nine: October 21
What is Sacred? Paradigm Conflicts over Land and Resources
In Light of Reverence. 73 minutes. E98.R3 I5 2002
Readings: LaDuke pages 151-166
Optional Extra Credit Course Paper proposal due.
First ten minutes of class & turnitin by noon

Class Ten: October 28.
Environment and World Health
Drumbeat for Mother Earth. 56 minutes. RA 448.5.15 D78 1999
Readings: LaDuke pages 167-190.

Class Eleven: November 4
International Indigenous Rights to Land and Resources
Our Land, Our Life: The Dann Sisters . . . Still Defiant After all these Years.
74 Minutes  E99.S39 O97 2006
Readings: LaDuke pages 191-225

Class Twelve: November 11. (Veterans Day Holiday – No Class)

Class Thirteen: November 18
Recovering the Sacred & Community Building
Arviq!: Bowhead! 52 minutes. Isuma Productions. FIU E 99 .E7 K85 2004
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**Class Fourteen:** November 25  
*Indigenous Identity and the Environment*  
Luna: Spirit of the Whale. 93 minutes. PN1997.2.L859 2007  
**Deadline for optional essays and PowerPoint Presentations.**  
Electronic by 8:00 AM in Blackboard  
and printed within 10 min. of start of class.

**Class Fifteen:** December 2  
*Political Voice & Tribal Sovereignty*  
Trudell. 78 minutes E 99 S22 T78 2006  
Student Presentations

**Final Exam Week** – December 7-11.  
Date, time and place posted in University final examination schedule.  
Student Presentations  
Final Comments