

Department: Political Science

Course number: 3218W

Course Title: Indigenous Peoples' Politics and Rights

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Oksan Bayulgen

W/Q : W

Regional campus availability: This course will not be available on a regular basis at the regional campuses owing to the lack of availability of lecturers and adjuncts who could teach it at those locations.

Proposed catalog copy:

POLS 3218W: Indigenous Peoples' Politics and Rights

Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 [110] or 1011 [111] or 3800 [250]; open to Juniors or higher. Recommended preparation POLS 1202 [121] or 1207 [143].

Governments, political behavior, human rights and constitutional rights of indigenous peoples of North America and Latin America. Impact of international law and globalization on indigenous peoples.

Justification :

This is a new course in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for which we are adding a W variant in order to meet GEOC's expectations of a 200-level W in the major. There will be no mixing of the non-W class and the writing variant of the course.

W Criteria:

1. When taught as a W-variant, this course will require students to produce a 15-page research paper (not including bibliography) on a topic related to course themes, chosen in consultation with the professor during the first three weeks of class. In addition to teaching writing and research skills, the research paper provides to students an opportunity to apply theories of ethnic mobilization to, and to evaluate the success of various conflict-reduction mechanisms used in, a particular case. The first draft (which is worth 15% of the final grade) must include an abstract, outline, working bibliography, and text. During the two weeks that follow, the instructor will meet individually with students to provide oral and written feedback. In addition, class lectures will cover the proper citation of sources, the organization of a research paper, and common writing problems of undergraduates. Students must address instructor comments in the final version of the paper (worth 35 % of the final grade). Taken together, the writing portion of this course constitutes 50 % of the final grade. Students' grades on the final version of their research paper will reflect the content and substance of their essay, the extent of their research and the accuracy with which you have provided citations, and the quality of their writing style. Writing quality will constitute 50% of the grade on the research paper.
2. The primary modes of writing instruction are individual conferences with each student, in-class seminars on writing and research techniques, and written commentary on drafts-in-progress.
3. Students will substantially revise their first draft of the paper, incorporating instructor comments with respect to writing style, organization, clarity, and citation style. Students will submit their first and final drafts at the end of the course to enable the instructor assess the content and extent of revisions.
4. The following language will appear on the syllabus: POLS 3218W is a W course. Writing the research paper, submitting it for comments, discussing the comments in conference with the instructor, and revising and resubmitting the paper are all fundamental components of the W component of the course. You must pass the W portion of this course to pass the course. 50% of your writing grade will reflect writing quality.

Does department have resources to offer proposed course: yes

Syllabus:

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES POLITICS AND RIGHTS

Political Science 3218W

Prof. Van Cott, Donna Lee Van Cott 486 -8425

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores the ways in which contemporary indigenous peoples organize politically and the implications of this political activity for democratic governance. Our focus will be global, with particular attention paid to the Western Hemisphere. Among the themes explored are: economic development and ethno-development; the rights of indigenous women and their mode of political expression; neoliberalism and globalization and their affect on indigenous cultures; transnational organizations and movements; constitutional reform and the multicultural state; and political representation. Students will read work by social scientists about indigenous peoples as well as writings by politically prominent indigenous leaders and scholars.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**WRITING REQUIREMENT.** Students will write a 15-page research paper (not including bibliography) on a topic related to course themes, chosen in consultation with the professor during the first three weeks of class. The first draft, which is worth 150 points (15% of the final grade) must include an abstract, outline, working bibliography, and text. This will be due the eighth week of class. During the two weeks that follow, the instructor will meet individually with students to provide oral and written feedback and comments. Students must address these comments in the final version of the paper, which is worth 350 points (35 % of the final grade). Students should retain the first draft -- with its written comments -- and submit it with the final paper. Taken together, the writing portion of this course constitutes 50 % of the final grade. Your grade on the final version of your research paper will reflect the content and substance of your essay, the extent of your research and the accuracy with which you have provided citations, and the quality of your writing style. Writing quality will constitute 50% of the grade on that paper.

**NOTE:** POLS 3218W is a W course. Writing the research paper, submitting it for comments, discussing the comments in conference with the instructor, and revising and resubmitting the paper are all fundamental components of the W. component of the course. You must pass the W portion of this course to pass the course.

TWO EXAMS. There will be two exams. These exams will assess students' understanding of the assigned readings for the course, the topics discussed during lectures, and the content of films. Each exam will be worth 200 points.

ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION. The objective of class participation is to assist all students in developing critical oral analytical and listening skills and to distribute opportunities for expression equally. Participation in class discussions will constitute one quarter of the grade. Participation requires active discussion of the readings, answering questions posed by the professor and other students, and raising questions about the topics for discussion. It also involves participating in classroom activities. Listening does not constitute active class participation. Students should come to class with questions in mind as well as comments on the assigned reading. Participation is worth 100 points.

COURSE PLAN. The course is organized as follows.

Part one. What is sovereignty and why does it matter to indigenous peoples?

Part two. Introduction to Indigenous peoples of the United States, Canada, and Latin America

Part three. Constitutional rights of indigenous peoples in the Western Hemisphere

Part four. Gender and indigenous rights

Part five. Indigenous peoples' economic rights, the impact of globalization

Part six. Indigenous peoples and international law

Part seven. Political participation and representation of indigenous peoples

BOOKS ASSIGNED.

James S. Anaya. *Indigenous Peoples in International Law*. 2nd ed. Oxford Univ. Press, 2004.

Joanne Barker. *Sovereignty Matters: Locations of Contestation and Possibility in Indigenous Struggles for Self-Determination*. University of Nebraska Press, 2005.

Rachel Sieder, editor. *Multiculturalism in Latin America: Indigenous Rights, Diversity and Democracy*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002.

David E. Wilkins. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. 2nd edition. Roman and Littlefield 2007.

Sample of additional readings:

"Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation History," at  
<http://www.pequotmuseum.org/tribalHistory/TribalHistoryOverview>

Daniel McCool, Susan Olson, and Jennifer Robinson. "An Equal Opportunity: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act." *Native Vote: American Indians, the Voting Rights Act, and the Right to Vote*. Cambridge University Press, 2007, 155-75.

US Supreme Court. *Santa Clara Pueblo versus Martinez*, 436 US 49 (1978).

Bethany Berger, "Indian Policy and the Imagined Indian Woman," *14 Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy* (2004-2005): 103-115.

Larry J. Zimmerman, Karen P. Zimmerman and Leonard R. Bruguier, "Cyberspace Smoke Signals: New Technologies and Native American Ethnicity." In Smith and Ward, editors, *Indigenous Cultures in an Interconnected World*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2000, 69-86.