University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ANTH 3813 North American Indians

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lecture Laboratory Hours: N/A

Prerequisites: ANTH 2803 Cultural Anthropology and one of the following: ENGL 1213 Composition II or RHET 2863 Advanced Composition
Effective Semester: Summer 1, 2010

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description
Explores the existence of human beings in North America from pre-history to contemporary times. Intercultural contact is an underlying theme throughout the course from the prehistoric cultural diffusion of artifacts to the interaction between Indian Nations and the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

B. Additional Information
None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the presence of diversity in North American Indian cultures, both past and present.
2. Explicate the traditional life-ways present in North America before European contact.
3. Explore the processes of cultural change illustrated by European contact with the Americas.
4. Interpret the interrelationship of indigenous populations and the state governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
5. Assess how each ecological region influenced the technological development of North American Indians.
6. Apply theories of migration by Native Americans to the settlement of North America
B. University Learning Outcomes
This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills
Students will write short papers, critically discussing competing theories on the peopling of North America; the cultural area hypothesis; and on what traits a North American Indian identity consists.

Global and Cultural Perspectives
Students will identify specific features which make cultures similar and different from one another. This outcome will be accessed via written and oral assignments.

Analytical Skills
Students will analyze cultural patterns in relation to ecological zones; students will analyze cultural variation by looking at specific social traits. This outcome will be accessed via written and oral assignments.

III. Major Course Topics

A. Peopling of North America
B. Cultural Area Theory
C. Cultural Ecology
D. Identity
E. Intercultural interaction