

Indigenous Epistemologies and their Disruptions

Ethnic Studies 270
Fall 2010
Thursday 11:00AM – 1:50PM, SSB 253

Ross Frank
Office: SSB 227
Phone: 534-6646
rfrank@weber.ucsd.edu

Course materials available at: <http://dss.ucsd.edu/~rfrank>

Course Description

This seminar will explore indigenous epistemologies, their ontological dimensions, the methodological issues surrounding related research, and their significance in relation to the production of knowledge and the histories, presents, and futures of Native American and Indigenous people. The purpose of this course is to help equip participants to investigate the larger empirical and theoretical implications of alternative systems of knowledge that emerge from global indigeneity.

Successful consideration of the dimensions, complexities, and significance of this topic depend on the engaged, imaginative, and generous participation in all seminar activities. Students are encouraged to bring their interests, knowledge, experience, and other interpretive materials to the seminar. Accordingly, course evaluation will be based upon the nature and quality of your participation, in oral and written forms equally. Weekly assignments will involve presentations and leading class discussions, as well as short written analyses that will be shared with the other seminar participants.

Texts ordered at UCSD Bookstore - Price Center (unless otherwise noted):

Alfred, Taiaiake. *Wasáse : Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*. Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 2005.

Bruyneel, Kevin. *The Third Space of Sovereignty: The Postcolonial Politics of U.S.-Indigenous Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007.

J. Kehaulani Kauanui. *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2008.

Kuokkanen, Rauna Johanna. *Reshaping the University: Responsibility, Indigenous Epistemes, and the Logic of the Gift*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007.

Miller, Bruce. *Invisible Indigenes: the politics of nonrecognition*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003.

Richland, Justin B. *Arguing with Tradition: The Language of Law in Hopi Tribal Court*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Smith, Andrea. *Native Americans and the Christian Right : The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.

Warrior, Robert Allen. *The People and the Word : Reading Native Nonfiction*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

Wilson, Angela Cavender, and Michael Yellow Bird. *For Indigenous Eyes Only : A Decolonization Handbook*. Santa Fe: School of American Research, 2005.

You will also read one of the following in Week 5 – please wait for instructions before purchasing:

Sioui, Georges E., and trans. Jane Brierley. *Huron-Wendat: The Heritage of the Circle*. Vancouver, East Lansing: UBC Press, Michigan State University Press, 1999.

Wilson, Angela Cavender, Eli Taylor, and Carolynn I. Schommer. *Remember This! Dakota Decolonization and the Eli Taylor Narratives*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005.

Denetdale, Janet. *Reclaiming Diné History*. Tuscon: University of Arizona Press, 2007.

Connolly Miskwish, Michael. *Kumeyaay: A History Textbook*. El Cajon: Sycuan Press, 2007.

Syllabus

Readings are marked in the syllabus according to the following:

- B** available at UCSD Bookstore.
- R** available on course website: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~rfrank>
- W** web link to publication (UCSD restricted)

NOTE: Please do the readings prior to each week's meeting.

WEEK ONE: September 24 Contextual Epistemes

Mignolo, Walter. *Local Histories/Global Designs : Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges, and Border Thinking*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000: 3-88. **R**

Wynter, Sylvia. "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, after Man, Its Overrepresentation--an Argument." *CR: The New Centennial Review* 3.3 (2003): 257-337. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/ncr/summary/v003/3.3wynter.html>

Povinelli, Elizabeth A. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*. Durham N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002: 1-34. **R**

Coulthard, Glen S. "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada." *Contemporary Political Theory* 6.4 (2007): 437-460. **R**

WEEK TWO: October 1 Indigenizing the Academy

Kuokkanen, Rauna Johanna. *Reshaping the University: Responsibility, Indigenous Epistemes, and the Logic of the Gift*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007. **B**

Tuck, Eve. "Suspending Damage: A Letter to Communities." *Harvard Educational Review* 79:3 (Fall 2009): 409-28. **W**
<http://www.metapress.com/content/n0016675661t3n15/fulltext.pdf>

WEEK THREE: October 7 Engaging Native Feminisms

Smith, Andrea. *Native Americans and the Christian Right : The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008. **B**

Smith, Andrea. "American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State." *American Quarterly* 60.2 (2008): 309-315. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/aq/summary/v060/60.2.smith01.html>

Goeman, Mishuana R., "Note Towards a Native Feminism's Spatial Practice", *Wicazo Sa Review* 24.2 (2009): 169-187. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/wic/summary/v024/24.2.goeman01.html>

Kauanui, J. Kēhaulani. "Native Hawaiian Decolonization and the Politics of Gender." *American Quarterly* 60.2 (2008): 281-287. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/aq/summary/v060/60.2.kauanui.html>

Optional reading:

Smith, Andrea, and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui. "Native Feminisms Engage American Studies." *American Quarterly* 60.2 (2008): 241-49. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/aq/summary/v060/60.2.smith.html>

WEEK FOUR: OCTOBER 14 NO MEETING (we will meet during exam week)**WEEK FIVE: October 21 Decolonizing Histories**

Sioui, Georges E., and trans. Jane Brierley. *Huron-Wendat: The Heritage of the Circle*. Vancouver, East Lansing: UBC Press, Michigan State University Press, 1999. **B**

Wilson, Angela C., Eli Taylor, Carolyn I. Schommer. *Remember This! Dakota Decolonization and the Eli Taylor Narratives*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2005. **B**

Denetdale, Jennifer Nez. *Reclaiming Diné History*. Tuscon: U. of Arizona Press, 2007. **B**

Connolly Miskwish, Michael. *Kumeyaay: A History Textbook*. El Cajon: Sycuan Press, 2007. **B**

Optional reading:

Simpson, Audra. "Captivating Eunice: Membership, Colonialism, and Gendered Citizenships of Grief", *Wicazo Sa Review* 24.2 (2009): 105-129. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/wic/summary/v024/24.2.simpson.html>

WEEK SIX: October 28 Politics of Identities

Niezen, Ronald. *The Origins of Indigenism : Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003: 29-93. **W**
Available at: <http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt1j49q07g>

Miller, Bruce. *Invisible Indigenes: the politics of nonrecognition*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. **B**

WEEK SEVEN: November 4 Sanguine Identities

J. Kehaulani Kauanui's *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2008. **B**

Tallbear, Kim. "DNA, Blood, and Racializing the Tribe." *Wicazo Sa Review* 18.1 (2003): 81-107. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/wic/summary/v018/18.1tallbear.html>

Optional reading:

Tallbear, Kim. "Narratives of Race and Indigeneity in the Genographic Project." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* (Fall 2007): 412-24. **W**
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1748-720X.2007.00164.x/abstract>

WEEK EIGHT: November 11 Sovereign Words

Warrior, Robert Allen. *The People and the Word : Reading Native Nonfiction*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005. **B**

Howe, Leanne. "Blind Bread and the Business of Theory Making, by Embarrassed Grief", in Craig S. Womack, Daniel Heath Justice, and Christopher B. Teuton, eds. *Reasoning together : the Native Critics Collective*. Norman : University of Oklahoma Press, 2008: 325-339. **R**

Teuton, Chrisopher, "Theorizing American Literature: Applying Oral Concepts to Written Traditions", in Craig S. Womack, Daniel Heath Justice, and Christopher B. Teuton, eds. *Reasoning together : the Native Critics Collective*. Norman : University of Oklahoma Press, 2008: 139-215. **R**

WEEK NINE: November 18 Sovereign Acts

Richland, Justin B. *Arguing with Tradition: The Language of Law in Hopi Tribal Court*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. **B**

Simpson, Audra. "Paths Towards a Mohawk Nation: Narratives of Citizenship and Nationhood in Kahnawake." *Political Theory and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Eds. Duncan Ivison, Paul Patton and Will Sanders. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000: 113-136. **R**

Simpson, Audra. "On Ethnographic Refusal: Indigeneity, 'Voice,' and Colonial Citizenship." *Junctures* 9 (2007): 67-80. **R**

NO CLASS: November 25**WEEK TEN: December 2 Decolonizing Possibilities**

Bruyneel, Keven. *The Third Space of Sovereignty: The Postcolonial Politics of U.S.-Indigenous Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007. **B**

Denetdale, Jennifer Nez. "Securing Navajo National Boundaries: War, Tradition, and the Diné Marriage Act of 2005." *Wicazo Sa Review* 24.2 (2009): 131-148. **W**
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/wic/summary/v024/24.2.denetdale.html>

Wilson, Angela Cavender, and Michael Yellow Bird. *For Indigenous Eyes Only : A Decolonization Handbook*. Santa Fe: School of American Research, 2005. **B**

WEEK ELEVEN: December 9 Indigenous Futures

Alfred, Gerald R. *Wasáse : Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*. Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 2005. **B**

Vizenor, Gerald Robert. *Fugitive Poses : Native American Indian Scenes of Absence and Presence*. The Abraham Lincoln Lecture Series. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1998: 167-199 **R**