

**North American Indians**  
**ANT 3312, Summer A 2007**  
**T & Th, 12:40 – 4:10pm, Bldg 51, Room 1209**

Instructor: Gordon F.M. Rakita  
Office: Building 51, Room 1210  
e-mail: [grakita@unf.edu](mailto:grakita@unf.edu)  
website: [www.unf.edu/~grakita](http://www.unf.edu/~grakita)  
Phone: 620-1658  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday  
12:30 – 1:30pm

**COURSE SYLLABUS:**

This document is the syllabus for my North American Indians course (ANT 3312). As such it is the controlling document for the class. Below you will find most of the information you need to successfully pass this course. **You are responsible** for knowing all the information presented in this document. **I will not accept any excuses** that involve you not reading this syllabus and understanding its contents.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines selected Indian groups from a holistic perspective and compares different cultural complexes. Particular attention will be given to religion, world view, kinship, politics and economic subsistence patterns. A study of aboriginal Indian cultures will be used as a basis for comparison with current American cultures.

**COURSE GOALS:**

1. To impart a basic understanding of the nature of Anthropology
2. To explore the diversity of native North American cultures
3. To develop the skills necessary for critical understanding of foreign cultures

**COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE:**

This course is accompanied and supported by a Blackboard website. Each students officially enrolled in the course will have access to this site. It is extremely important that you make sure you know how to access the Blackboard site and familiarize yourself with its content.

**COURSE READINGS:**

Required readings will be drawn from the following text: *An Introduction to Native North America* by Mark Q. Sutton, third edition, 2008, Pearson, Boston. Students should complete required readings prior to the week for which they are assigned. The reading due dates are listed on the course schedule below. Completing the required readings on time will significantly improve your chances of receiving a high grade in the course.

**COURSE GRADING:**

The largest proportion of student final grades will be based upon performance on assignments provided on the Blackboard site. These assignments must be completed on time and will constitute 50% of your total course grade. The other 50% of student final grades will be based upon two (2) in-class exams given over the course of the semester. These exams will each be worth 25% of the final grade. Exams and assignments will test your knowledge and understanding of material from both the course readings, lectures, videos, and other sources. Exams will be made up of any combination of the following; multiple choice, true/false, short

answer, matching, and essays. Exams will not be strictly cumulative, but may require you to apply information learned in an earlier portion of the class to later material.

Assignments will be posted and announced on the blackboard site for the course. Completion of assignments will usually be due within one week of posting. Assignment due dates will be made explicit and a "0" will be given to any assignment that is not completed prior to the due date. Because assignments will be available for completion for 1 week, all students should have sufficient time to finish the assignments. Waiting until the last moment and then finding that you are unable to complete the assignment (for what ever reason) will not be accepted as a valid excuse. No make-up assignments will be provided. I strongly encourage you to take the time to check your grade book in Blackboard after you submit a completed assignment to confirm that it has been recorded correctly.

No make-up exams or assignments will be given without either prior consent or appropriate justification. You must communicate to me your interest in taking a make-up within 2 days of the exam date. If you request a make-up exam, be prepared to provide me with documentation. Documentation must be dated, as well as relevant and specific to your excuse. Make-up exams will not follow the same format as regularly scheduled exams; they will be essay or short answer exams.

Grading:

Blackboard Assignments	Worth 50% of Final Grade
Exam 1 (May 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Worth 25% of Final Grade
Exam 2 (June 21 <sup>st</sup> )	Worth 25% of Final Grade
<b>Total: 100%</b>	

Letter grades (for both exams and final grades) will be based upon the following categories: 100-93 (A), 92-90 (A-), 89-87 (B+), 86-83 (B), 82-80 (B-), 79-77 (C+), 76-70 (C), 69-60 (D), ≤59 (F). I keep my grade book in Microsoft Excel, and use it to calculate and round off final grades. If you prefer for your grade to be rounded off by a different method than the one used by Excel, then I encourage you to contact Microsoft Corporation directly and ask that they make the appropriate change to their software and issue a version update.

*As per my legal and ethical responsibilities to discuss a student's grades only with that student, I will not discuss individual grades via e-mail or the phone. You must see me in person to discuss the specifics of your grade.* The student handbook outlines procedures for students wishing to appeal academic decisions.

***Any student found engaging in academic misconduct (as defined by the University of North Florida) will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.*** The current student handbook contains a detailed discussion of the University's policy on academic misconduct. Violations of academic integrity include; cheating, fabrication or falsification of information or documents, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic misconduct. Students may be subject to any and all of the following; academic counseling, reprimand, a failing grade for the assignment that involved the misconduct, a failing grade for the course, and referral of the behavior to the Departmental Chair or appropriate Dean. Again, the student handbook outlines procedures for students wishing to appeal the academic decisions of the Professor.

**Extra Credit:** No extra credit projects will be available. The only way to receive a passing grade in this course is to complete the course requirements. Do not assume that you can "blow

off" or otherwise perform poorly on the exams and then expect me to provide you with a way to improve your grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance to lectures is not mandatory, however it is necessary for successful completion of the course. A great deal of the learning of this course occurs during lectures. In lecture, we will be discussing key anthropological issues, concepts, and ideas as well as the nature of native North American cultures. Lectures will be the only way you can learn some of the important information you need to succeed in this course. If you must miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to make sure you find out the information that you missed. I suggest you find a classmate at the beginning of the semester who is willing to share their notes with you if you do miss a class (and vice versa). Do not ask me to provide a copy of my lecture notes or slides. Late arrival to class is disruptive and impolite to both the other students and me. Therefore, I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade and habitual tardiness will result in a lowered final grade.

**Participation:** Participation in classroom discussions and activities is strongly encouraged and will positively affect your grade. Lack of participation will negatively affect your grade. I will strive to create a class atmosphere that is congenial, enjoyable, and relaxed. However, I expect all students to treat each other and me with courtesy and respect. All reasonable opinions regarding course materials will be acceptable for discussion and comment. No opinions or speech which discriminates against or is derogatory towards others on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, or disability will be tolerated. Students expressing such opinions will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. I reserve the right to re-direct or curtail discussions that diverge from the course goals or lecture topic. I am happy to answer questions about the day's topics during my lecture (though I may ask that you defer your question till a more appropriate part of the class period). You are also welcome to e-mail me questions.

**The United States government, the University of North Florida, and I are all committed to guaranteeing a learning environment in which reasonable accommodations are made for individuals with disabilities.** In accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1999, any students in need of assistance or alternative learning arrangements are encouraged to contact either me or the University's Disabled Services Program office (located in Building 10, Room 1201, 620-2769 Voice/TDD, 620-3874 FAX, URL: <http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services/>).

#### **E-MAIL:**

E-mail is often the best method for communicating with me and I encourage you to e-mail me whenever you may have a question, concern, or comment. E-mailing me is also an excellent way for you to make sure I remember something. (I will often ask students to e-mail me so that I have a tangible reminder of what I might need to do to assist them.) Please make sure you identify yourself (full name) and which of my courses you are taking. If I do not know who you are, then I can not assist you. Make sure your return e-mail address is correct and operational. If my reply bounces, I will not try again. Use proper punctuation, spelling, grammar, complete sentences, etc. DO NOT use text-messaging abbreviations. If I can not understand your message, then I can not assist you. If you are writing an e-mail longer than a paragraph or two, then consider speaking to me in person. I respond to all e-mails as quickly as possible. In some cases this may take a day or two. Do not assume that I received your message unless you receive a reply back from me. Please do not forget that UNF e-mail is a public form a communication. As such, I do not discuss the specifics of anyone's grades via e-mail.

**CELL PHONES, PAGERS, & OTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES:** All such devices must be turned off during class periods. Students who require an exception to this rule may discuss the situation with me. Anyone caught using any of these items during an exam will be treated as if they are cheating.

**OFFICE HOURS:** My office hours are listed above. If you need to meet with me and can not meet during these times, please contact me. I am happy to arrange a time to meet that is convenient for both of us. Please take advantage of my office hours to come see me and discuss questions or concerns you might have. If you are still reading this syllabus at this point, please see me in person in my office hours prior to May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 and I will award you two extra points on your first exam. If you are interested in majoring or minoring in Anthropology, my office hours are a good time to discuss this with me. It is sometimes necessary for me to cancel my scheduled office hours. If so, I will do my best to make sure I make this announcement in class. If I am not in my office during scheduled office hours, or am busy with other students, please e-mail me so that I can arrange a time for us to meet. Your time is valuable and your questions and concerns are important to me. I am committed to making sure I am available to offer any help that I can. *If you wish to discuss the specifics of your grade, you must meet with me personally. I will not discuss your grades with you via e-mail or the phone.*

**Tips for Successfully Completing this Course:**

- (1) complete the required readings
- (2) complete all assignments
- (3) attend all lectures
- (4) study regularly for the exams
- (5) participate in classroom discussions

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

*This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.*

Week	Day	Date	Readings	Topic
1	Tue	15-May		First Peoples
	Thur	17-May	Sutton, Chapters 1 & 2	The Artic
2	Tue	22-May	Sutton, Chapters 3 & 4	The Northwest
	Thur	24-May	Sutton, Chapters 5 & 6	The Great Basin
3	Tue	29-May	Chapter 7 & 8	The Pacific Coast
	Thur	31-May	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
4	Tue	5-Jun	Sutton, Chapter 9	The Southwest
	Thur	7-Jun	Sutton, Chapter 10	The Plains
5	Tue	12-Jun	Sutton, Chapter 11	The Northeast
	Thur	14-Jun	Sutton, Chapter 12	The Southeast
6	Tue	19-Jun	Sutton, Chapter 13	Contemporary Issues
	Thur	21-Jun	<b>EXAM 2</b>	