

First Year Seminar: Spring 2006

American Indian Communities in Urban America: Toward Cultural and Economic Well-being

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Office Hours: T, R: Noon to 1:00 pm, and by appointment

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Description:

This First Year Seminar will explore American Indian urban cultures and entrepreneurship from an interdisciplinary perspective. As participants in the innovative Kauffman initiative, students will collaborate with the Guilford Native American Association (GNAA) to gain a deeper understanding of urban American Indian culture and the dynamics between different tribes in an urban setting, to study local urban issues and to develop appropriate cultural programming and business ventures as a tool for American Indian cultural and economic well-being.

Objectives:

- To understand the role of cities in American Indian history, past and present
- To understand culturally appropriate economic development for American Indian tribes
- To identify vital issues in Urban American Indian Communities
- To expand competency in oral, written, and electronic media.
- To develop viable business plans and cultural programming for GNAA

Required Texts:

Brian Hosmer et al., *Native Pathways* (2004)
Susan Guyette, *Planning for Balanced Development* (1996)
Susan Lobo, *American Indians and the Urban Experience* (2001)
Dean Howard Smith, *Modern Tribal Development* (2000)
Gerald Sider, *Living Indian Histories* (2003)

Course Requirements:

1. Seminar attendance and active participation in discussions, including regular discussion leadership, short reflection papers on readings and on-going work with GNAA, poster sessions, and presentations of individual chapters. Please be prepared to schedule a few field trips to Greensboro (30%).
2. Three review exams (take-home format or open book exam to be held in class on readings, class discussions, and report on GNAA project (30%).

3. Business Round-table Participation (TBA) and Project Development with GNAA with formal presentation scheduled for the end of the semester (40%).
4. *Extra Credit Opportunity*: Attendance of at least one on or off campus event related to American Indian issues (1-2 pp. reflection paper).

Please note that regular class attendance is required; failure to attend classes may result in failing the course. Computer-related excuses for late work are not acceptable. Should you miss class due to sickness, please provide the instructor with a written note from your doctor. Written materials handed in after deadline will automatically be downgraded one grade per late day. Students are expected to abide at all times by the Wake Forest University Honor Code. Plagiarism will result in failing the course.

Syllabus:

January

- *Enquiry Focus: Characteristics of Urban American Indian Communities & Development*

- 10: Introduction.
 12: Lobo, 1, 4, 5; Smith, Introduction, 1.
 17: Hosmer, 14; Guyette, 1.
 19: Hosmer, 1; Lobo, 2, 9, 15 (one set).
 24: Lobo, 6, 11 (one set), 12. Smith, 2, 3.
 26: **Poster Session: Case Studies**: Lobo, 7, 8, 10, 13.
 31: Review Exam/ Building Team
- Week of 1/31-2/2: **Class Consultation** with Fall 2005 FYS Members

- *Enquiry Focus: Planning for Balanced Development-Portfolio & Team Work Development*

February

- 2: Lecture, GNAA Representative. Guyette, 2. Answer questions on p. 23 specifically for your development project (1 – 2 pages per team). Start Project Portfolio.
- Week of 2/7 – 2/9: **Team Consultations** with Instructor (by appointment)
- 7: Film Discussion, Sherman Alexie, *The Business of Fancydancing* (2003): Rural and Urban Issues
 9: Smith, 4, 5.
 14: Smith, 6, 7.
 16: **Poster Session: Examples and Issues**: Smith, 8, 9 & 10 (one set), 11, 12, 13.
 21: Field Research
 23: Field Research
 28: Review Exam

- *Enquiry Focus: Local Knowledge, Sustainable Development*

March

- 2: Project Evaluation
- 3: Midterm Grades Due
 - 4 – 12: Spring Break
- 14: TBA: Field Research/Project Development
 16: TBA
 21: TBA
 23: TBA
 28: TBA

30: Review Exam

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Enquiry Focus: Family and Community in Urban Contexts</i> |
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April

4: Gerald Sider, TBA

6: Guest Lecture

11: Gerald Sider, TBA

13: Project Development

- 14: Good Friday

18: Gerald Sider, TBA

20: Gerald Sider, TBA

25: Last Day of Classes: Presentation of Projects

- 27 – 5/4: Exam Week: Portfolio Due