INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE and TRADITIONS

Instructor: David Kanatawakhon
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Time: Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Classroom: Social Science Building, Room 3108

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Looking at indigenous knowledge as it pertains to aboriginal cultures and nationalities and their inherent knowledge systems concerning agriculture, politics, ritual and belief, social organization (positioning, child rearing, inheritance, etc...), education, and environmental support systems. The course will entail lectures and group discussions of various topics to seek out and understand what constitutes indigenous knowledge and how it is applied in daily life as an integral aspect of Indigenous societies.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Research Paper: ...............................................................................................................25%
Each student will prepare a research essay / paper based on the "Indigenous Knowledge" of a particular cultural group or people. The essay should be no less than 3,000 words, double-spaced, with a title page (including the students name, student No., Professor's name and date, and course number), a page of references (no less than 5 references) at the end of the paper, with the content in between. Please avoid headings on chapters or sections. The essay should move smoothly from introduction to content and then to a summary. The paper will be due on the second to the last class, or any time prior to that if the student is prepared to submit.

In-class Research Presentation: .......................................................................................40%
Each student will prepare an in-class research presentation on a particular aspect of "indigenous knowledge" of a particular aboriginal culture. The presentation should be no less than 20 minutes in length using various media (optional) available to supplement the presentation. The presentation can be based on the course paper or can be related to or completely different from the essay. The professor of the class must be provided with a copy
of the in-class presentation, and a smaller condensed version made available to the students in the class prior to the presentation. The presentation should be made in a clear audible voice and in a professional manner. The research presentation will be evaluated according to: visual (25%) and physical (15%) presentation; spoken presentation (30%); and the impact on and response from the students audience (30%).

**Attendance and Participation:**
One percentage point will be deducted from the final evaluation for every class missed. Attendance is of paramount importance in a class like this as the final exam will be based totally on the in-class lectures. Students will be encouraged to participate in all discussions expressing their own thoughts and insights into the material under discussion. An email indication of last minute non-attendance will be greatly appreciated - preferably before the class begins. If you have advance knowledge of non-attendance indicating such in advance to the Professor will be expected.

**Final exam:**
The final exam for this course will consist of a take-home exam consisting of five questions of which the student must choose three to answer in an essay style format. The exam must then be returned to the Professor within one week of the last day of class.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**
The student will be encouraged to express themselves regarding these topic areas based on what they already know, or have come to know through their own experience.

What is indigenous knowledge?
Who determines what Indigenous Knowledge is?
How is indigenous knowledge transmitted?
Is indigenous knowledge sacred?
Is indigenous knowledge universal?
How does Indigenous Knowledge differ from Western Knowledge and how are they similar.
Indigenous Knowledge and World View or Indigenous Philosophy and Thought?
Who controls indigenous knowledge
Is indigenous knowledge ethnocentric?
Is indigenous knowledge static?
Are language use and indigenous knowledge related?
Does language loss affect Indigenous Knowledge?
Does cultural change affect Indigenous Knowledge?

Does cultural appropriation affect Indigenous Knowledge? If so, how?

How does a changing world affect Indigenous Knowledge?

How does Indigenous Knowledge differ from Western Cultural Knowledge?

Is Indigenous Knowledge dependent of its location?

Can Indigenous Knowledge be deemed "sacred"?

What is "sacred" within the context of Indigenous Knowledge?

Is Indigenous Knowledge "real" or "political"?

Recovering Indigenous Knowledge.

Maintaining Indigenous Knowledge.

Rediscovering Indigenous Knowledge.

Ensuring continuance of Indigenous Knowledge.

Are traditional and contemporary art forms a reflection of Indigenous Knowledge?

How does the contemporary world we live affect or appreciate Indigenous Knowledge?

The affect of Colonialism and Westernization on Indigenous Knowledge and its transmission and continuance.

What affect does Indigenous Knowledge have on Self-determination
COURSE OUTLINE

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE and TRADITION

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1  September 7, 2017
Introduction:
What is indigenous knowledge?
Who determines what Indigenous Knowledge is?
How is indigenous knowledge transmitted?
Is indigenous knowledge sacred?
Is indigenous knowledge universal?
How is Indigenous Knowledge different from Western Knowledge and how are they similar.

WEEK 2  September 14, 2017
Indigenous Knowledge and World View or Indigenous Philosophy and Thought?
Who controls indigenous knowledge?
Is indigenous knowledge ethnocentric?
Is indigenous knowledge static?

WEEK 3  September 21, 2017
Are language use and indigenous knowledge related?
Does language loss affect Indigenous Knowledge?
Does cultural change affect Indigenous Knowledge?

WEEK 4  September 28, 2017
Does cultural appropriation affect Indigenous Knowledge? If so, how?
How does a changing world affect Indigenous Knowledge?
How does Indigenous Knowledge differ from Western Cultural Knowledge?

WEEK 5  October 5, 2014
Is Indigenous Knowledge dependent of its location.
Can Indigenous Knowledge be deemed "sacred"?
What is "sacred" within the context of Indigenous Knowledge?
Is Indigenous Knowledge "real" or "political"?

WEEK 6  October 12, 2014
Recovering Indigenous Knowledge.
Maintaining Indigenous Knowledge.
Rediscovering Indigenous Knowledge.
Ensuring continuance of Indigenous Knowledge.

WEEK 7  October 19, 2014
Are traditional and contemporary art forms a reflection of Indigenous Knowledge.
How does the contemporary world we live affect or appreciate Indigenous Knowledge?
The effect of Colonialism and Westernization on Indigenous Knowledge and its
transmission and continuance.
What affect does Indigenous Knowledge have on Self-determination?

WEEK 8  October 26, 2017
Class presentations

WEEK 9  November 2, 2017
Class presentations

WEEK 10  November 9, 2017
Class presentations

WEEK 11  November 16, 2017
Class presentations

WEEK 12  November 23, 2017
Class presentations
Course paper is due  (25%)

WEEK 13  November 30, 2017
Review of Course Material

FINAL EXAM (Take-home)  (25%)