GEOG 435/835
Cultural Survival:
Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
2007

Course Information

More than 500 years after Columbus instigated European colonialism, creating the first global world order, Indigenous peoples are still responding to threats against their lands, resources and cultural patrimony, including their languages and knowledge systems. This course will explore the varied responses of Indigenous peoples to the imposition of Western dominated economic and political systems. The course will take a thematic approach, addressing diverse issues such as land rights, economic development and women’s rights, looking at these issues from the perspective of many different Indigenous communities around the world.

Assignments are geared toward encouraging and testing learning through a variety of methods and allow students to tailor the course to their individual learning needs. Assignments will be explained fully in class along with supporting handouts.

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## GEOG 435/835 Aims
Geog 435/835 is aimed at providing students with a background into the issues of Indigenous communities taking a thematic approach toward investigating these issues.

## Learning Outcomes
It is intended that students will gain a critical perspective into relevant issues of Indigenous peoples with specific regard to:
- aspects of how Indigenous peoples are defined and defining themselves internationally,
- how Indigenous peoples are enacting their self-determination over resources and lands,
- investigating the crucial issues faced by Indigenous peoples in controlling various aspects of daily life.

## Hours
Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 8:20pm in Oldfather 827. They are not proposed as a delivery medium of information but rather as a platform for engagement with the subject through information sharing, discussion and debate. The format for seminars is participatory! Everyone is expected to participate in discussion, debate and small group work. This cannot be achieved without regular attendance. Therefore, as in any upper-division class, each student is expected to attend each class, unless unable to do so through illness (in which case it is normal practice to notify the instructor).

You will also be expected to spend a reasonable amount of time reading and thinking about readings. You may want to consider working in small study groups. You will also spend time doing fieldwork and archival research for the portfolio/journal and field assignments.

My office hours are Tuesdays 9-10am and Wednesdays 1-2pm.

## Reading, reading, reading!
Each week’s readings will be contained either in the required text *(Ronald Niezen. 2003. The origins of indigenism: human rights and the politics of identity. Berkeley: University of California Press.)* or will be provided in class. Many of the readings throughout the course can be accessed on two websites; first Cultural Survival Organization (http://209.200.101.189) and its publications and second the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (http://www.iwgia.org).

## Assessment
The assessment for this course comprises:
- 25% Indigenous Communities presentations – September 27th
- 35% Paper on a thematic topic – November 8th
- 40% Final Exam – essay questions – Wednesday, December 13th 8:15 – 10:15pm

Detailed instructions for the assignments will be given in class.

Late assignments should be negotiated with the instructor otherwise they will lose one grade per day.

Grading scale: 100-97% = A+, 96-93% = A, 92-90% = A-, 89-87% = B+, 86-83 = B, 82-80% = B-, 79-77% = C+, 76-73% = C, 72-70% = C-, 69-67% = D+, 66-63% = D, 62-60% = D-, 60% and below = F

## Plagiarism
You are encouraged to discuss your readings, ideas and assignment work with others – in fact this will be a crucial part of your learning in GEOG 435/835. The written work that you hand in, however, must be in your own words. Always reference ideas, quotations, diagrams and maps to the source as missing references constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism results in an automatic zero grade (with a right of appeal).
# GEOG 435/835
## Timetable
### 2008

| Class date | week | Wednesdays 6-8:20pm  
Oldfather 827 |
|------------|------|---------------------|
| Aug 23     | 1    | **Introductions and Introduction to ‘Indigenism’**  
Readings – Indigenous definitions from the IWGIA |
| Aug 30     | 2    | **The Origins of Indigenism**  
| Sept 6     | 3    | **Identity and Rights**  
| Sept 13    | 4    | **The Politics of Resistance**  
| Sept 20    | 5    | **Indigenism, Ethnicity and the State**  
| Sept 27    | 6    | **Indigenous Peoples**  
In-class presentations of the history and current issues of various Indigenous peoples around the world. |
| Oct 4      | 7    | **The International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples**  
Readings – *Cultural Survival Quarterly* Volume 28 Issue 3 |
| Oct 11     | 8    | **Indigenous Gender and Sexuality**  
Readings –*Cultural Survival Quarterly* Volume 28 Issue 4 – the video “Honored by the Moon” |
| Oct 18     | 9    | **Indigenous Peoples, Violent Conflict and Militarization**  
Readings –*Cultural Survival Quarterly* Volume 29 Issue 1 |
| Oct 25     | 10   | **Land Rights: Two Issues – Mining and National Parks**  
Readings – *Cultural Survival Quarterly* Volume 28 Issue 1  
And Indigenous Affairs No. 4/2004 |
<p>| Nov 1      | 11   | <strong>Sustainable Development and Fair Trade</strong> |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Second Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Water Rights, Neoliberalism and Revolution</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Rights</td>
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<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Evaluation and exam review</td>
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<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>8:15 – 10:15PM</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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