



## USC-Columbia

### Course: American Indian Nations Today

ANTH 244 – 001

#### **Catalog Description**

Contemporary Indian Country in anthropological, historical, cultural, economic, and political contexts.

#### **Purpose**

American Indian Nations Today explores the tremendous diversity of contemporary American Indian nations in the territory now known as the United States

We will examine a variety of media and sources including short videos, film, autobiographies, literature, guest speakers, case studies, archaeological evidence, and historical accounts, with a strong emphasis on contemporary ethnographic works by Indigenous scholars, in order to address the multitude of perspectives on current events (such as gaming, arts, and mascots) in Indian Country – the U.S.'s "nations-within-a-nation."

This introductory course primarily devotes time to the current processes of nation-building and economy-building developed by these Native Nations in the 21st century as they intersect with topics such as culture, stereotypes, academic research, and activism. These discussions will be built on an historical context crucial for understanding the unique socio-economic complexities that Native Nations face today.

This class is organized around weekly lectures and discussions. In addition to weekly readings and class participation, students will demonstrate mastery of the materials by turning in critical reflection papers on the course's Blackboard page and taking six exams.

This course satisfies both GSS and VSR

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Identify and differentiate the wide variety of economic, political, and cultural practices of the 573 federally recognized Native Nations in the U.S.
- (2) Explain the historic and current forces of settler colonialism in the U.S.
- (3) Define 21st century Native Nation processes of nation-building and economy-building
- (4) Critically analyze portrayals of, and associations with, American Indians

**Carolina Core**  
**Outcomes**

GSS - Students will be able to use the principles of the social sciences to explore diverse cultural identities and to analyze political and environmental issues.

VSR - Students will be able to examine different kinds of social and personal values, analyzing the ways in which these are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.

**Readings**

The following book can be purchased at University bookstores or online:

- North American Indians: A Very Short Introduction (NAI) – Perdue & Greene
- The State of Native Nations (SNN) – The Harvard Project

Supplementary Materials will be made available through the course's Blackboard page. These materials are for the educational purposes of students in this class. No further reproduction, transmission, or electronic distribution of this material is permitted.

**Grading**

**(1) Reading Assignments**

You are required to write one Reading Assignment on the required reading due the upcoming week. All assignments must be posted to the course's Blackboard page by 9:00 AM, unless otherwise specified in the syllabus. You do not need to answer your own questions. The assignment should be based in the required readings for the week, connecting where applicable the concepts covered earlier to readings and supplemental materials from that week. The goal of these assignments is to show your engagement with, and ability to synthesize, the course material.

Do: Include quotes and cite your references, including page numbers from your readings.

Do not: Posit hypothetical questions.

Late submissions will be given a “Unsatisfactory” grade

**(2) Exams** The six exams are based on the lectures, required readings, supplementary materials, and in-class activities from each unit.

There will be 25 multiple choice and true/false questions. You will have 50 minutes to complete the exam.

**(3) Extra Credit**      Extra credit is offered strictly on a class-wide basis.  
No individual extra credit will be granted under any circumstances.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	A Bundle	Complete 13 out of 14 “Satisfactory” RAs Complete 5 “Satisfactory” exams
	B Bundle	Complete 12 out of 14 “Satisfactory” RAs Complete 4 “Satisfactory” exams
	C Bundle	Complete 11 out of 14 “Satisfactory” RAs Complete 4 “Satisfactory” exams
	D Bundle	Complete 8 out of 14 “Satisfactory” RAs Complete 3 “Satisfactory” exams

## USC Honor Code

The University of South Carolina has clearly articulated its policies governing academic integrity and students are encouraged to carefully review the policy on the Honor Code in the Carolina Community. Any deviation from these expectations will result in academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. The area of greatest potential risk for inadvertent academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, paraphrasing or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. If it is determined that a student has submitted a plagiarized assignment [in whole or part] then s/he will receive a score of zero and the case will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity to determine if further action is warranted.

### **Carolinian Creed:**

"The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior. As a Carolinian...

- I will practice personal and academic integrity;
  - I will respect the dignity of all persons;
  - I will respect the rights and property of others;
  - I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;
  - I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development.
- Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves."

## General Classroom Expectations

Your time at USC is, in part, about developing your professionalization skills. With this in mind, treat your classroom behavior as you would a meeting with your boss and work colleagues: laptops for note taking only, focus on the conversation at hand, civility, etc.

**Emails** to the professor, written similarly professionally, are generally replied to in 24 hours.

**Laptop use** is permitted *provided* the user sits in the front, side row. See Blackboard for helpful URL's on General Classroom Conduct

## Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in order to successfully complete all requirements of this course should contact the USC Office of Student Disability Services (phone: 777-6142 or email: sasds@sc.edu). For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/index.htm>.

**Schedule –**  
**Provisional**

Reading Assignments are due on **Monday** unless otherwise noted. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly as all readings and assignments are subject to change. Exam dates are fixed.