NAS-245 Native American Film 3 credits

I. **Catalog Description:** This course explores how films by and about Native Americans reflect social and cultural issues of race, identity, gender, power, and nature. Films will address non-Native views of Natives, and Native views of indigenous, colonial and post-colonial cultures.

II. **Prerequisites, pre-/co-requisites, co-requisites, recommended:** None

III. **Rationale for Course Level:** This course 200 level due to the rigorous writing nature of the class. Students will gather, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different Native American films.

IV. **Suggested Textbooks:**

V. **Student Learning Course Objectives:**

**Institutional Learning Goals:**

Students will:

1. Demonstrate competency in reading, writing, oral communication, and numerical literacy
2. Be able to evaluate information
3. Consider multiple perspectives from the diversity of human experience

**Native American Studies Goal:**

1. Students will be able to identify the impact of Native American historical experiences on contemporary Native American experiences

**Course student learning outcomes:**

1. Recognize the power of media images in stereotype formation and perpetuation
2. Recognize the cultural contexts—both Native and non-Native—of films about American Indians
3. Have a multidisciplinary framework for viewing films about American Indians
4. Develop personal awareness and sensitivity in their perspectives of others, and identify bias and prejudice in their own assumptions
VI. **Suggested Course Outline:**

Each week we will pick a film from the list below, or from films recommended by students which we will compile the first two weeks of class. The course will advance through a loose historical framework that will demonstrate the changing nature of native stereotypes in Hollywood films. Along the way we will learn to apply concepts and analysis from introductory film studies.

- **Week One**
  - The Battle of Elderbush Gulch
- **Week Two**
  - The Vanishing American
- **Week Three**
  - Stagecoach
- **Week Four**
  - Drums Along the Mohawk
- **Week Five-Fifteen**
  - Students choice

VII. **Suggested Course Evaluation:**

1. **Attendance and Participation**  **25%**

   Obviously, attendance is the most necessary component of a film course, and since we meet once a week, it is even more critical. Each class we will view either a feature film or several short pieces followed by an analytical discussion in which you viewpoint is most welcome. Viewing the movie at home deprives the student of helpful analysis and ideas necessary for the overall grasp of new concepts. Consequently, attendance will be strictly monitored. Students will be allowed one unexcused absence; each unexcused absence after that will result in .5 off of your final grade. Please call me or let me know ahead of time if you expect to miss a class.

   Your participation in class discussion following films is also very important. However, since this is a fun class with plenty to chew on, I have no doubt that everyone in attendance will be heard.

2. **Reaction Papers**  **25%**

   Students will write a minimum of one page of analysis after each film, due at the beginning of next week’s class. Students are encouraged to write while the movie and discussion is still fresh. Content and format will be discussed in class.

3. **Midterm**  **25%**

   Students will select a movie of their choice in which Indians play a central role, and write an analysis, paying special attention to the details of image construction. We will discuss further in class.

4. **Final Project**  **25%**
The final project is a chance for you to become creative. You may do an in-depth analysis of a film or films; you may write about any issue relating to Natives as seen in the films; you may create your own idea for a film; you may create collages of stereotypical imagery or paint about a similar theme. In essence, you will be free to do virtually anything you wish, as long as it relates in some way to the class. I encourage you to think about this project early, and talk to me. All projects require prior approval, but I am very open. You will present your project at the end of the semester.

Grading Scale

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IX. Bibliography

Feature Films

America

Apache

Black Cloud

Black Robe

Broken Arrow

Buffalo Bill and the Indians

Chato’s Land

Cheyenne Autumn

Clear Cut

Dance Me Outside

Dances with Wolves

Dead Man

Dreamkeeper

Drums Along the Mohawk
Geronimo (Chuck Connors)
Geronimo (Wes Studi)
Grey Owl
Hombre
I will fight No More Forever
In Whose Honor
Incident at Oglala
Last of the Comanches
Last of his Tribe
Little Big Man
A Man Called Horse
The Mission
Northwest Passage
The Outlaw Josie Wales
Once Were Warriors
Pocahontas
Pow-Wow Highway
The Searchers
Ashe Wore a Yellow Ribbon
Sitting Bull
Skins
Smoke Signals
Soldier Blue
Squanto
Stagecoach
Standing Tall

Tell Them Willie Boy was Here

They Died With their Boots On

Thunderheart

The Unforgiven

Where the Spirit Lives

Short Films

Images of Indians (5 part series):

a) The Great Movie Massacre

b) How Hollywood Wins the West

c) War Paint and Wigs

d) Heathen Injuns and Hollywood Gospel

The Movie Reel Indian

Syllabus Prepared By:

(Signature of Faculty)_____________

Typed Name of Faculty, Credentials

Syllabus Prepared By:
2015