

Ethical Issues in Indian Country

UNIV 291C SPR 2017

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Sullivan-Clarke

Course Meeting Time: W 7:00-8:30 p.m. Place: The Prindle Institute for Ethics (TBD)

Course Description:

Hipsters wearing headdresses, sports fans doing the 'Tomahawk Chop', and institutions storing the remains and artifacts of 'ancient peoples' for research—these are just a few examples of the possible ethical issues facing Native Americans today. Unfortunately, there is little consensus as to what makes each of these actions an issue of ethics—and as regards possible solutions, not even members of the same tribe will agree as to what should be done. In this class, we will examine some of the contemporary issues that are of importance to Native American tribes and individuals (for example—identity, cultural appropriation, research, environmental issues, and Indian Child Welfare). Although these issues are often considered in a strictly political context because Native American tribes are political entities, we shall endeavor to use various ethical frameworks, drawing from the theories of Native and Western philosophical traditions. In doing so, we attempt to answer, "What is wrong in Indian Country?"

Required Texts:

Electronic readings supplied on course website.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class Participation** (20%): This is a discussion-based course. Students will be expected to contribute to the class discussion, ask questions, and participate in all exercises (writing, speaking, group work, etc.).
2. **Reading Questions** (20%): Beginning with the second week of the term, the student will provide two discussion questions based on the week's reading. These will be submitted electronically (Moodle) the evening prior to the class meeting (i.e. the reading questions for the second week are due on Tuesday, Feb. 7th by 7 p.m.). These questions will be used to motivate the course discussion— they can be questions of clarification or to explore the reasoning of that week's issue. You may provide an answer to the question to elicit feedback from the group.
3. **Final Project** (60%): Using the list of issues from the syllabus (or an issue approved by the professor) students will create a Pecha Kucha presentation (slides + audio) to explain the issue and the ethical frameworks used to understand the normative questions regarding the issue. These should be created for a general audience— for folks who have little experience with Native American issues or Theoretical Ethics. These will be shown during our next to last meeting (on 3/15).

If you have any further questions about these class requirements please see me.

Scales and Criteria for Grading

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

There will be no curves and no extra credit in this class. You will not be graded relative to your fellow students and additional assignments will not be created to substitute for missing assignments. What this means is that it is possible for *everyone* to get an A or an F (or anything in-between).

Tentative Schedule of Topics:

Week 1

Weds. 02/01

Welcome & Understanding Ethical Theories

Reading: Utilitarianism Pojman1.pdf
Deontological Theories Pojman2.pdf
Feminist Ethics of Care Pojman3.pdf
Native American Ethics Cordova.pdf

Week 2

Weds. 02/08

Mascots, War Cries, and Logos

Meeting for Lunch (PechaKucha How-to's with Veronica Pejril, FITS)
Reading: Lindsay.pdf
Video (in class): Jon Stewart *The Daily Show*, "The Redskins' Name-Catching Racism" <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loK2DRBnk24>>

Week 3

Weds. 02/15

Cultural Appropriation: Fashion, Lifestyle, and Art

Reading: Rogers.pdf
Video (in class): What Is Cultural Appropriation? | *Feminist Fridays*
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZT1sTYpOJ04>>

Week 4

Issues Involving Identity

Weds. 02/22

Reading: Weaver.pdf

Video (in class): "They don't look like Indians to me" *Washington Post*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/they-dont-look-like-indians-to-me-donald-trump-on-native-american-casinos-in-1993/2016/07/01/20736038-3fd4-11e6-9e16-4cf01a41decb_video.html>

Week 5

Weds. 03/01

American Indians, the Environment, and Poverty

Reading: Lewis.pdf

Video (in class): Canoe PSA

< <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Suu84khNGY>>

Horseback PSA

< https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_QGBWaD-A4>

Week 6

Weds. 03/08

Research, Native Americans, and NAGPRA

Reading: Brugge&Missaghian.pdf

Video (in class): Bones of Contention

< <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2ZcJTsyMbU>>

Week 7

Weds. 03/15

Indian Child Welfare

Reading: *NPR*, "Native Foster Care: Lost Children, Shattered Families"

< <http://www.npr.org/2011/10/25/141672992/native-foster-care-lost-children-shattered-families>>

Week 8

Weds. 03/22

Presentations and Course Wrap-Up

Dr. Shay Welch, Spelman College