

Philipp Kneis, M.A., Potsdam University, Summer Semester 2008

Undergraduate Seminar "American Indians: An Introduction"

The seminar will provide an introduction to American Indian topics. This includes historical background in the light of post-colonial theory and recent developments in anthropology and cultural studies, issues of reservation life, and recent Native American literature.

The seminar will also be tied in to the 8th Annual Students & Graduate Conference at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, June 4-7, 2008: *The Cosmopolitan Subaltern. Marginalized Literature and Culture in a Globalizing World*. The conference will feature speakers from American Indian tribes.

The seminar will be accompanied by an electronic discussion forum, in which participation is mandatory.

Assessment: is based on active participation, presentations and a brief academic essay (8-10 pages). In addition, surprise quizzes and tests will ensure that participants comply with the reading assignments.

Seminar Details: 90 minute sessions, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:45 PM

Seminar Plan:

- 1 04/16/08 **Introduction to the Seminar**
Visual Tour through North-West Indian Reservations
- 2 04/23/08 **Overview: Indian Nations in North America**
Pevar, *The Rights of Indians and Tribes*, 1-14
- 3 04/30/08 **Revised History of Colonization**
Texts: Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, 37-136
- 4 05/07/08 **Cultural Exchange and Syncretism: American Hybridity**
Texts: Weatherford, *Indian Givers*, 1-20, 117-149
- 5 05/14/08 **Cultural Exchange and Syncretism: American Hybridity (ctd.)**
Indians in Contemporary Art in the Pacific Northwest
Introduction to Literary Theory
- 6 05/21/08 **Poetry I**
Texts: Ortiz, *From Sand Creek*
Video excerpts from *Into the West*
- 7 05/28/08 **Conference Preparation Session**
Discussion of student presentations for conference
- 8 06/04/08 **Conference "The Cosmopolitan Subaltern" in Berlin**
– 06/07/08 no seminar session, visit at least 2 conference sessions
on American Indian topics, plus the student presentation session
- 9 06/11/08 **no session -- time for reading**
- 10 06/18/08 **Poetry II**
Texts: Alexie, "The Unauthorized Autobiography of Me",
Select. Poems
- 11 25.06.2008 **Novel I**
Text: Alexie, *Flight*
- 12 02.07.2008 **Novel II**
Text: Welch, *The Death of Jim Loney*
- 13 09.07.2008 **Short Story**
Text: Hale, "Claire"
- 14 16.07.2008 **Concluding Discussion**

Bibliography: Background Texts

- Pevar, Stephen L. *The Rights of Indians and Tribes. The Authoritative ACLU Guide to Indian and Tribal Rights. Third Edition.* New York, London: New York University Press, 2004. 1-14.
- Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me. Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong.* New York: Touchstone, 1995. 37-136.
- Weatherford, Jack. *Indian Givers. How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World.* New York: Fawcett, 1988. 1-20, 117-149.

Bibliography: Literary Texts

- Alexie, Sherman. "The Unauthorized Autobiography of Me". *One Stick Song.* New York: Hanging Loose Press, 2000. 13-25.
- Alexie, Sherman. *Flight.* New York: Black Cat, 2007.
- Hale, Janet Campbell. "Claire." *Women on the Run.* Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1999.
- Ortiz, Simon J. *From Sand Creek.* Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1981.
- Welch, James. *The Death of Jim Loney.* London, New York: Penguin, 1979.

Bibliography: Other Recommended Texts

- Cook-Lynn, Elizabeth. *Anti-Indianism in Modern America. A Voice from Tatekeya's Earth.* Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001.
- Deloria, Vine Jr., Clifford M. Lytle. *The Nations Within. The Past and Future of American Indian Sovereignty.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984.
- Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs and Steel. A Short History of Everybody for the Last 13,000 Years.* London: Vintage, 1997.
- Jennings, Francis. *The Invasion of America. Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest.* New York: W.W. Norton, 1975.
- . *The Founders of America. From the Earliest Migrations to the Present.* New York: W.W. Norton, 1993.
- . *The Creation of America. Through Revolution to Empire.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Johannsen, Bruce E. *Debating Democracy. Native American Legacy of Freedom.* Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishers, 1998.
- Lincoln, Kenneth. *Native American Renaissance.* Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of Berkeley Press, 1983.
- Mann, Charles C. *1491. New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus.* New York: Vintage, 2005.
- Pearce, Roy Harvey. *Savagism and Civilization. A Study of the Indian and the American Mind.* Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of Berkeley Press, 1953/1988.
- Weatherford, Jack. *Native Roots. How the Indians Enriched America.* New York: Fawcett, 1991.