

Native American Studies R1B: Indigenous Politics in the Americas

Instructor: Hector Callejas (hmcallejas@berkeley.edu)

Course Details: 1:00-2:00PM PST M/W/F Spring 2021
Zoom ([link](#))

Office hours: Mondays, 2:15-3:15PM PST
Sign up here ([link](#))

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of Indigenous politics in the Americas. It also teaches the basic mechanisms of academic writing in fulfillment of the R1B undergraduate requirement at the University of California, Berkeley.

Course materials are divided into four units. Each unit presents important ideas in hemispheric Indigenous studies and requires students to complete a short essay assignment. The first unit introduces Indigenous identity as a transnational political phenomenon. The next unit contrasts settler colonialism and neoliberalism as theoretical frameworks for understanding Indigenous politics in the Western hemisphere. Unit three presents key terms in the analysis of Native politics in North America. The final unit reviews core concepts for understanding Indigenous movements in Latin America.

Readings

All readings are available online through the UC Berkeley library ([link](#)).

Assignments and Grading

Attendance and participation (20% of final course grade): In-class discussion will facilitate student learning of course materials. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the week.

Writing Assignments (80% of final course grade): Students will complete several short essay assignments throughout the semester. The assignments are designed for students to practice, receive feedback on, and improve their academic writing skills. The focus will be on defining a main argument and presenting supporting arguments with evidence. Students should draw on the assigned readings to frame their main arguments. Students may draw on the readings or on a high-quality source (e.g. a reputable news site, an Indigenous organization website) to present

supporting arguments and evidence. Each essay will increase in page length. For each assignment, completion of the essay draft will be worth 10% of the assignment grade. *Students must bring completed essay drafts to class on the due date.* Students will workshop their essay drafts in class a week before the essay paper is due. The remaining 90% of the assignment grade will be determined by the GSI's evaluation of the essay paper. *Students must submit essay papers by 11:59PM on the due date.* Essay topics and due dates are listed below. Essays should have the following format: Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, page numbered. Additional assignment instructions are forthcoming, including a grading rubric for the essay paper.

- Diagnostic essay (5%): Who are you? Half or one page. **Paper due January 22.**
- Essay 1 (10%): What does it mean to be Indigenous? Who are Indigenous peoples? Two pages. **Draft due February 5 (one page). Paper due February 12 (two pages).**
- Essay 2 (15%): What is settler colonialism or neoliberalism (choose one)? How does it affect Indigenous peoples? **Draft due February 26 (two pages). Paper due March 5 (three pages).**
- Essay 3 (25%): What is an important feature of Native politics in the United States? **Draft due March 19 (three pages). Paper due April 2 (four pages).**
- Essay 4 (25%): What is an important feature of Indigenous movements in Latin America? **Draft due April 16 (three pages). Paper due April 23 (four pages).**
- Optional final: revise and resubmit one essay for a higher grade. **Paper due May 12.**

Policies

GSI feedback. The instructor will grade and comment on each essay paper submission. The instructor can discuss paper topics and general essay writing strategies in class, during office hours, or by email. The instructor cannot provide individual and detailed feedback on paper drafts. For hands-on instruction on academic writing, the GSI strongly recommends that students make an appointment with a writing tutor at the Student Learning Center on campus (<https://slc.berkeley.edu/home>).

Late assignments. Each student will have one free pass to submit an essay paper 72 hours without penalty (except the optional final paper). Any requests for extensions beyond that will require the student to contact the instructor, but you must make contact before the 72-hour window. Late papers beyond the one free pass will be accepted, with a 10% grade penalty deducted from the total assignment for each day that the paper is late. Late essay drafts will not be accepted; students will forfeit the points for drafts not brought to class on the due date.

15-minute rule. If the Zoom session does not begin within 15 minutes of the start time, students can assume that there has been a failure somewhere in the technology link and that there will not

be a live session that day. Similarly, if the broadcast drops in the middle of a session and it does not resume within 15 minutes, consider the session to be finished for the day.

Contacting the GSI. All questions about course content (e.g. homework assignments, key concepts, due dates) should be asked during class so that all students can benefit. Email is best used for questions that relate to your personal circumstances and aren't addressed in the syllabus. The instructor will respond to email within 48 hours.

Absences. If the student is absent from lecture or discussion, the student is responsible for the material. The student should ask other students for notes and anything important said in class that day. The student will be held responsible for any agreement or change about the course announced in class whether the student was present or not.

Academic Honesty. It is essential that the student properly cite other people's ideas and language in your writing. Don't plagiarize. Any plagiarized work may result in failing an assignment and possibly the entire course. To learn more about the campus definition of plagiarism: <http://writing.berkeley.edu/students/academic-honesty>

Accessibility: If a student needs disability-related accommodations in this class, if a student has emergency medical information they wish to share with the instructor, or if a student needs special arrangements, please inform the instructor immediately and provide the instructor with a "letter of accommodation" from the DSP Office. Please see the instructor privately after class or at office hours. Students who need academic accommodations (for example, a note-taker), should request them from the Disabled Students Program, 260 César Chávez Center, 642-0518 (voice or TTY). DSP is the campus office responsible for verifying disability-related needs for academic accommodations, assessing that need, and for planning accommodations in cooperation with students and instructors as needed and consistent with course requirements.

Schedule

Unit 1: Transnational Indigeneities	
Week 1: January 18-22 (instruction begins January 19)	
1/20	Course introduction and syllabus review
1/22	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 2007. Pp. 1-32.
1/22	Diagnostic Essay paper due (11:59PM).

Week 2: January 25-29

1/25, 1/27	De la Cadena, Marisol, and Orin Starn. <i>Indigenous Experience Today</i> . Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2007. Pp. 3-21.
1/29	Introduce Essay #1

Week 3: February 1-5

2/1, 2/3	Anaya, S. James. "The Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples: United Nations Developments Panel 8: International Law and the Development of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." <i>University of Hawai'i Law Review</i> , vol. 35, no. 2, 2013, pp. 983–1012.
2/5	Essay #1 draft due (bring to class). In-class workshop.

Week 4: February 8-12

2/8, 2/10, 2/12	Goodale, Mark. "Dark matter: Toward a political economy of indigenous rights and aspirational politics." <i>Critique of Anthropology</i> 36.4 (2016): 439-457.
2/12	Essay #1 paper due (11:59PM).

Unit 2: Interpreting Indigenous Politics: Settler Colonialism, Neoliberalism

Week 5: February 15-19 (No class on February 15 due to academic holiday)

2/17	Wolfe, Patrick. "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native." <i>Journal of Genocide Research</i> , vol. 8, no. 4, Dec. 2006, pp. 387–409.
2/19	Introduce Essay #2

Week 6: February 22-26

2/22, 2/24	Hale, Charles R. "Does Multiculturalism Menace? Governance, Cultural
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	Rights and the Politics of Identity in Guatemala.” <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> , vol. 34, no. 3, Aug. 2002, pp. 485–524.
2/26	Essay #2 draft due (bring to class). In-class workshop.

Week 7: March 1-5

3/1, 3/3, 3/5	Gott, Richard. “Latin America as a White Settler Society.” <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> , vol. 26, no. 2, 2007, pp. 269–89. Speed, Shannon. “Structures of Settler Capitalism in Abya Yala.” <i>American Quarterly</i> , vol. 69, no. 4, Dec. 2017, pp. 783–90.
3/5	Essay #2 paper due (11:59PM).

Unit 3: Native Politics in the U.S.

Week 8: March 8-12

3/8, 3/10	Jr, Vine Deloria. <i>The Nations Within: The Past and Future of American Indian Sovereignty</i> . Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2013. Pp. 1-15.
3/12	Introduce Essay #3.

Week 9: March 15-19

3/15, 3/17	Simpson, Audra. “The Ruse of Consent and the Anatomy of ‘Refusal’: Cases from Indigenous North America and Australia.” <i>Postcolonial Studies</i> , vol. 20, no. 1, Jan. 2017, pp. 18–33.
3/19	Essay #3 draft due (bring to class). In-class workshop.

Week 10: March 22-26 (No class. Enjoy Spring Break!)

Week 11: March 29-April 2

3/29, 3/31, 4/2	Biolsi, Tom. "Even If They Have Their Own States...: The Immiseration of Indigenous Peoples in the US." <i>Journal of Contemporary Thought</i> 32 (2010): 69-89.
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4/2	Essay #3 paper due (11:59PM).
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Unit 4: Indigenous Movements in Latin America

Week 12: April 5-9

4/5, 4/7	Loperena, Christopher. "Radicalize Multiculturalism? Garifuna Activism and the Double-Bind of Participation in Postcoup Honduras." <i>The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology</i> , vol. 21, no. 3, Nov. 2016, pp. 517-38.
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4/9	Introduce Essay #4.
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Week 13: April 12-16

4/12, 4/14	Hale, Charles R. "Resistencia para que? Territory, autonomy and neoliberal entanglements in the 'empty spaces' of Central America." <i>Economy and Society</i> 40.2 (2011): 184-210.
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4/16	Essay #4 draft due (bring to class). In-class workshop.
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Week 14: April 19-23

4/19, 4/21, 4/23	Postero, Nancy Grey. <i>The Indigenous State: Race, Politics, and Performance in Plurinational Bolivia</i> . University of California Press, 2017. Pp. 1-22.
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4/23	Essay #4 paper due (11:59PM).
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Conclusion

Week 15: April 26-30

4/26, 4/28, 4/30	Final reflections on course topics.
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Week 16: May 1-7 (RRR week)

Finals week: May 10-May 14

5/12

Optional final paper due (11:59PM).

Writing Resources

Student Learning Center: <https://slc.berkeley.edu/home>

Purdue Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>