

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## ANTH 311: American Indians and the Environment

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

To what degree does the image of the "ecological Indian" faithfully reflect American Indian ideas about the environment through time? This course will examine the idea of the "ecological Indian," the idea of American Indians were/are model ecologists and conservationists. We will explore the concept of sustainability among American Indians and the relationship between American Indian communities and the environment through an examination of their unique adaptations that they have made within the 10 major geo-cultural regions of native North America: Arctic, Subarctic, Great Basin, Plateau, Northwest Coast, California, Great Plains, Northeast and Southeast. MnTC Goal 10.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/23/2010 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Presentation of Geo-cultural Regions of Native North America: Arctic, Subarctic, Plateau, Great Basin, California, Northwest Coast, Southwest, Great Plains, Northeast, and Southeast.
2. Overview of interrelationships between historic cultural groups and their specific environments.
3. Overview of interrelationships between contemporary cultural groups and their specific environments.
4. In-depth presentation and discussion of selected contemporary and historic environmental issues

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Understand the claim of a unique American Indian ecology .
2. Understand the ecology of American Indian peoples and the role that human-environmental relations played in the development of native societies prior to European contact through to the present day.
3. Understand the impact that ecological factors played in determining the history of both Indian-Indian and Indian-White relations.
4. Understand contemporary environmental management practices of native groups as well as the legal, political, economic, social, cultural, and religious issues surrounding contemporary challenges.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted