

ANTH/ANS 242
NATIVE CULTURES OF ALASKA
SUMMER I, 2008

Instructor: Patricia Kwachka, Ph.D

Time: 4:00-5:50, M-Th

Place: Grun 405

Office: Lib 311

Office Hours: 1-2, M-Th

Contact: 388-3801

ffpbk@uaf.edu

Textbooks:

Fienup-Riordan: *Boundaries and Passages*

Jolles: *Faith, Food and Family*

Nelson: *Make Prayers to the Raven*

Brody: *Maps and Dreams*

1-2 additional brief readings will be required, to be selected from a list provided on the first day of class. These readings will be available through ERes, or the Reserve Desk.

One brief research project will be taken on by student research groups, to be reported on during the final class week. The topic may be based on ecology/human relationships or some aspect of a group's culture.

Our class will have a **Blackboard** site which students should check daily for announcements, schedule changes, and discussion points.

Course Description and Requirements

We will examine the two major Alaska Native cultures currently living in the state (Aleut/Eskimo and Athabaskan/Tlingit), including their prehistory, history, and present circumstances. We will also discuss smaller groups (Haida, Tsimshian) and some of the Athabaskan cultures across the Canadian border.

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the broad range of cultures developed by the many sub-groups of these major families, their similarities and differences, and the role of the natural as well as the non-Native world in shaping indigenous practices—from social organization, to food, technology, and belief systems. At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to identify groups, their distinguishing cultural traits, and delineate their histories.

To the extent possible, we will have guest lecturers from the various cultures. (Unfortunately, summer is fishing season, so these arrangements will be on-going throughout the course.)

You will be **required** to attend and actively participate in class discussion of readings, write almost daily paragraph summaries of current topics, and always be on top of the assigned readings. Lectures will be kept to a minimum, since I prefer guided, interactive learning.

Plagiarism will result in dismissal from the course with a failing grade.

Grades:	25%	Attendance and Class Discussion
	25%	In-Class Writing Assignments
	25%	Three quizzes (including Final Quiz)
	25%	Research Report, Oral and Written

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(Note: this Schedule is extremely tentative because I'm currently out of state and do not have access to my texts, research, or notes. By May 20 a more specific Schedule will be mounted on our courses's BlackBoard site. In the meantime, you are welcome to start reading and taking notes on readings.)

Reading Assignments: These are in preparation for the next week's topic, so DO read in advance. Brief chapter notes (i.e., main point and your impressions of the topic) are recommended for the sake of discussion; we may decide to put these on Blackboard.

Week 1 (May 27-29, Short Week)

Topics: General Overview of Alaska Native cultures
Anthropological and linguistic terms and perspectives
Early history of Alaska Natives and contact history

Read: Fienup-Riordan

Week 2 (June 2-5)

Topics: Southeastern Alaska, including Tsimshian and Haida
Aleuts; Begin Yup'ik Eskimo
Quiz I

Read: Jolles

Week 3 (June 9-12)

Topics: Yup'ik, Inupiaq, and Siberian Eskimo

Read: Nelson

Week 4 (June 16-19)

Topics: Athabaskans
Quiz II

Read: Brody

Week 5 (June 23-26)

Topics: Athabaskans, including those near Canadian border

Week 6 (June 30-July 2 (Short Week))

Topics: Research reports
Final Quiz
Wrap-up discussion of current issues in Alaska Native cultures