Alaska Native Studies (ANS) / Anthropology (ANTH) F242 F61
Native Cultures of Alaska
Place: DUCK 354 Time: M-R 6:00-7:50pm
Summer 2012 * May 28 – Jul 3
3 credits

Instructor:  C. Sean Topkok
Office: Bunnell 117
Office Telephone: 474-5897
Office Hours: By email, or by appointment
E-mail: sean@ankn.uaf.edu

Course Objectives
This course is designed to provide a general background on the Indigenous cultures of Alaska as they are now and as they were prior to the arrival of non-Indigenous peoples. The course provides a review of each of the large cultural areas with additional thematic topics about kinship, trade, oral traditions, art, and archaeology. Discovery of information and theories about Indigenous peoples is an ongoing process, and student input is valued and actively sought.

Required Texts
Texts purchased from the UAF Bookstore must now be ordered on-line: www.uaf.edu/bookstore


Some additional readings may be required but will be either supplied by the instructor or made available on reserve at the library. Any additional readings will be announced in class.

Disability Services
If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require reasonable accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services in room 208 of the Whitaker Building and request a letter of accommodation.

Support Services
Academic Advising Center 907-474-6396 http://www.uaf.edu/advising
UAF Writing Center 907-474-5314, FAX: 1-800-478-5246 http://www.uaf.edu/english/writingcenter
Plagiarism Policy
High ethical standards are essential for maintaining credibility in this field. Every course taught at UAF seeks to maintain these standards, starting with an emphasis on producing original and factual work. If you cite or quote from someone else’s work, you must include a proper citation using an established style sheet. Plagiarism is defined as appropriating passages or ideas from another person’s work and using them as one’s own. Neither plagiarism nor fabrication will be tolerated. Any student found to have plagiarized or fabricated statements will receive, at a minimum, an automatic “F” for the class. Further action, such as expulsion, will also be considered. The UAF Code of Conduct can be found online at: http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct

Course Structure and Readings
You must attend class regularly to successfully complete this course. Much of the course material may be gained only by attending the class, and instructor and student lectures and presentations will provide the primary source for information that will appear on the two exams. The texts are secondary in importance to class participation, providing details for the information presented in class and used as supporting texts for the assignments.

The texts, of course, should be acquired and read, and class lectures will sometimes mirror information presented in the texts for this class. Lectures will not be drawn directly from the texts, however, and will constitute additional course information. Additional readings will be provided, and then discussed in detail on specified days during class, though they must read outside of class prior to the discussions. Reading the assignments before class will greatly increase your understanding of the lecture and presentation material.

Grading & Course Requirements
Provided below is a list of assignments that will provide the grade for this class. To make the grading scale as understandable as possible, a 1000-point scale is used. Any time during the class (after the first grade) you may determine your current grade. Simply divide the total number of points you currently have by the total number of points currently possible, and a percentage score will result. For example:

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If current possible total points = 450 and If your total points gained = 398 then divide 398 by 450, which = .88 or an 88% (a "B+")
Grades will be drawn from the following:

**Writing Assignments:**
- Papers: 4 @ 100 points each = 400
- Video Questions: 5 @ 30 points each = 150

**Video Questions:** = 550 points

**Group Presentations:**
- 1 @ 200 each: 100 points for presentation = 100
- 100 points for paper = 100

**Group Presentations:** = 200 points

**Exams:**
- Map Test: 1 @ 50 points each = 50
- Final: 1 @ 200 points each = 200

**Exams:** = 250 points

**TOTAL** = 1000 possible points on a 1000-point scale*

*In addition, extra-credit opportunities will be provided throughout the course.

**Writing Assignments**
Writing Assignments accompany each of the five units of the course. Unless a student is a part of a group presenting for a particular unit, each student will perform a Writing Assignment for each unit. In response to the Assignment (handed out in class—see schedule below), a paper of 3-4 pages, double-spaced, at ten to twelve-point font is due. Writing Assignments are worth 100 points each, for a total of four, constituting 40% of your final grade.

**Videos**
Five videos will be shown in class during the semester. After each video, you will be given time to write five questions about the subject matter of the film, and you will attempt to answer these questions from the information learned from the film. **You will not lose points for incorrect answers, only “mis-phrased” questions.** For example, these questions cannot be questions about the film, but must be questions concerning the subject of the film. Each set of "video-questions" is worth 30 points, for a total of 150 points.

**Group Presentations**
Each of the five groups (A-E) will be responsible, as a group, for presenting material in one class (one group per unit). Each group member will present an aspect of her/his assigned subject (~10 minutes each). Accompanying this presentation will be a paper of 3-4 pages, double-spaced, at ten to twelve-point font, detailing the subject matter of the presentation. This paper is intended to augment the presentation, and is prepared instead of the writing assignment for each unit. However, presentations are to be presented, not read.

**Exams: Map Test**
On Tuesday of the 1st week of class a take-home map test will be distributed. It is due the following Thursday. To complete this test any resource may be used. Most important is to
become familiar with the geographic position of Alaska’s features. It is necessary to understand
the relevance of the geographic situation of all human groups. The map test is an easy 50 points,
which will also increase geographic awareness of Alaska.

Exams: Final
The Final Exam is worth 200 points. The exam will consist of three parts. An example exam is
presented below:

PART 1: (required) (define in 2-3 sentences any 5 of the following) 50 points
animism       myth       clan        moiety
subsistence   assimilation egalitarian society  polygamy

PART 2: One out of two discussion questions (approximately one page) 50 points
(1) Give a description (rather than a definition) of culture, displaying how culture is a natural adaptive mechanism
    for humans.

(2) Give a description of how the ancestors of Indigenous Alaska Natives came to settle Alaska, according to
    archaeological evidence, and briefly identify the controversies surrounding this origin-theory.

PART 3: Essay Question (required) (approximately two pages) 100 points
Describe in detail the Athabascan potlatch, including its change through history, the effects of culture change, rituals
and symbolic details, and its overall role as a social institution.

Attendance Requirement
Attendance is required, since this class requires considerable group cooperation. As per ANS
attendance requirements, your grade will be dropped by one value for more than three absences.

SCHEDULE of READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Dates    Lecture Topic and Reading Assignment

Introduction
5/28-29 Anthropology, Ethnology, & the Study of Indigenous Cultures
Readings: Langdon: Introduction
Assignment: Take-home Map Test distributed; due beginning of Unit 1

UNIT 1
Dates: Eyak, Haida, Tlingit, & Tsimshian
6/3-6 Readings: Langdon: Tlingit and Haida (Southeast Coastal Indians)
                Olson: pp.1-65 as a part of Assignment 1
Tasks: Group A Presentation, 6/6
       Assignment 1 distributed; due 6/6
Video: This Land is Ours
UNIT 2
Dates: 6/10-13
Readings: Langdon: Yupiit (Bering Sea Eskimos)
Fienup-Riordan: pp. 1-67; 167-220 as a part of Assignment 2
Tasks: Group B Presentation, 6/13
Assignment 2 distributed; due 6/13
Video: Nutemllaput: Our Very Own

UNIT 3
Dates: 6/17-19
Readings: Langdon: Athabaskans (Interior Indians)
Simeone: pp. 3-48; 107-161 as a part of Assignment 3
Tasks: Group C Presentation, 6/19
Assignment 3 distributed; due 6/19
Video: Make Prayers to the Raven: The Bible and Distant Time / The Passage of Gifts

UNIT 4
Dates: 6/20, 24, 25
Readings: Langdon: Unangan/Aleut
Langdon: Sugpiaq/Alutiiq (Pacific Eskimos)
Tasks: Group D Presentation, 6/25
Assignment 4 distributed; due 6/25
Video: Aleut Evacuation: The Untold War Story
UNIT 5
Dates: Iñupiat
6/26, 27, 7/1  Readings: Langdon: Iñupiat (Northern Eskimos)
Chance: parts of entire text used as a part of Assignment 5
Tasks: Group E Presentation, 7/1
Assignment 5 distributed; due 7/1
Video: On the Wings of Tomorrow

CONCLUSION
Date: Museum Visit: 7/1
7/1-3 Final Exam Review: 7/2
UAF scheduled final exam: 7/3