Course: Anthropology 323: Native Peoples of Montana
Instructor: Professor Gregory R. Campbell
Office: Social Science Building, Room 231
Contact: 243-2478 or –2693; gregory.campbell@mso.umt.edu (Please do not call me home).

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the diversity and complexity of Native American societies that came to inhabit the state of Montana. Using an ethnohistorical and ethnological approach, the course examines the culture history of various Native American nations within the region, highlighting the social processes that shaped their lives prior to the reservation period. The course also examines each society’s social and cultural institutions to form a comparative perspective.

Course Objectives: 1. Students will evaluate documents within a historical and/or cultural framework about indigenous peoples of Montana; 2. Students will synthesize ideas and information with regard to historical causes, the course of events, and their consequences about Montana’s indigenous societies; 3. Students will analyze human behavior, ideas and institutions for historical and cultural meaning and significance.

Required text:

Recommended texts: The following works are highly recommended supplemental readings for the course. They are books that offer either a new perspective, insight, or provide a basis for cross-cultural comparison. These texts will enrich your knowledge and breadth of the region, the peoples, their cultural, and historical experiences.

I. Patterson, Montana Memories: The Life of Emma Magee in the Rocky Mountain West. University of Nebraska Press.

G. Gagnon, Culture and Customs of the Sioux Indians. University of Nebraska Press.

F. Rzeczkowski, Uniting the Tribes: The Rise and Fall of Pan-Indian Community of the Crow Reservation. University Press of Kansas.


Extra credit: Any student wishing to do extra credit can write a book review using one or all of the recommended readings. Each review is due the final day of lecture. No late papers will be accepted. Submit the extra credit electronically via e-mail. The assignment will be worth a possible 35 points for each review.

Course Requirements: Each student will be responsible for all reading and lecture material for in-class discussion and exams. There will be two exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points each. The test’s format will be discussed in class prior to the exam. Grading is on a straight point system. There is no negotiation for points to raise your grade. If you did not receive the grade you want on the midterm, consider doing the extra credit. Students may also chose to purchase, read two optional books, and write two reviews instead of taking a test. The questions following each section are designed to stimulate your thinking about the course. Although there is no formal grade associated with the questions, you are encouraged to answer them.

Graduate Students: Graduate students are required to purchase one of the recommended books, in addition to the text for required reading. They must write a review of the work. The review is due the last day of class (Note: The required reading cannot be used for extra credit). They are also required to write a research paper, which is a historical ethnography of a tribe of the Northwestern Great Plains. The paper is due no later than the final day of class lecture.