APG 325G American Dilemma: Who "Owns" Native America? (Online Asynchronous)

Instructor: Dr. T'arhesi (tarhechu@uri.edu)
Zoom office Hours: By appointment via email.
Credits: 3
General Education Outcomes: GC, A2, C3.

## Course Description:

An American dilemma examines the ways settler-colonialism and nation-state building have enabled and influenced research on Amerindians. We begin by reviewing the case of Ishi as a lens from which to examine researchers' perceived rights to ownership of Amerindian people, languages, bones, and genomes. Students will evaluate the ethical dilemmas arising across each domain of research while addressing a few questions: How and why do people become "objects?" Who has rights over living and deceased humans? Who "owns" Native America?

## Student Learning Outcomes (GC, A2, C3):

- Demonstrate knowledge about the ways discrimination, colonial-derived privilege, and oppression have factored into research on Native Americans, the ways these factors have impacted Native Americans, and the myriad of Native American perspectives of research on their communities.
- Find, summarize, analyze, and synthesize academic texts to develop your own insights.
- Produce analytic arguments—based on questions or hypotheses— that matter in academic contexts.
- Engage in dialogues about the long-lasting effects of settler-colonialism, genocide, slavery, land displacement, and oppression on Native Americans.
- Develop an understanding of conceptual and ethical frameworks to produce an evidence-based position that considers various perspectives including counterarguments, and especially those from historically marginalized communities.

## Essential Equipment & Technology Requirements:

- To successfully complete this course, you will need access to a computer with reliable, high speed Internet access and appropriate system and software to support the Brightspace learning platform. Typical technical requirements for users are:

| Windows 7 (XP or Vista) | Mac OS X or higher |
|---|---|
| 64 MB Ram | 32 MB Ram |
| 28.8 kbps modem (56k or higher recommended) | 28.8 kbps modem (56k or higher recommended) |
| SoundCard & Speakers | SoundCard & Speakers |
| External headphones with built-in microphone | External headphones with built-in microphone |
| Mozilla Firefox 9.0 or higher | Mozilla Firefox 9.0 or higher; Safari 5.0 or higher |

- The course is delivered through Brightspace and requires modern web browsers. Recommended browsers are Google Chrome, Safari, and Mozilla Firefox
- *Required Readings: All required readings are on Brightspace.*

<u>Portfolio & Contract system: Assessment and Grade Distribution</u>

- The portfolio system helps maximize student learning by providing a relatively stress free environment. Basically, work at your own pace and submit your work for full credit before the final deadline! Your grade corresponds to the amount of work you submit. Focus on setting and achieving realistic learning goals, learning the subject matter, and developing analytic reading and writing skills in the process.
- Discussion posts and the course reflection are due on 1/17/25.

**Contract system details:**

1. Read and demonstrate your intellectual development through **Weekly Discussion Posts & Reflection**
    1.1. Earn full credit when you meet the following criteria:
        1.1.1. Engage with the course material along the following lines:
            1.1.1.1. Argument
            1.1.1.2. Organization
            1.1.1.3. Clarity
            1.1.1.4. Scholarly conventions
2. Knowing your progress (grade scale): Your grade corresponds to the amount of work you submit. In the reflection, you will self-assess your progress. For instance, if you submit 4 posts and a reflection then assess yourself as a B- then you will have earned a B-. However, if you self-assess yourself as a B+ then that is the grade you have earned. You cannot self-assess outside of the range for the work you submitted. If you seek an A or A+ then submit all assignments. <u>All work is due by 1/17/2025</u>

| Grade | Discussion Posts | Reflection |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| A     | 5                | 1          |
| A-    | 5                | 1          |
| B+    | 4                | 1          |
| B     | 4                | 1          |
| B-    | 4                | 1          |
| C+    | 3                | 1          |
| C     | 2                | 1          |
| C-    | 2                | 1          |
| D+    | 1                | 1          |
| D     | 1                | 1          |
| D-    | 1                | 0          |
| F     | 0                | 0          |

<u>Accessibility and Accommodations:</u>

- The University of Rhode Island is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students, and I am committed to making learning as accessible as possible for my students. If you have a disability and need an accommodation to participate in this class or to complete course requirements, please ask Disability, Access, and Inclusion (DAI) to provide documentation of the accommodations that you need.  Then, please share this documentation with me as soon as possible.  I will treat as private and confidential any information that you share.
- Here is the contact information for DAI:
    - location: 302 Memorial Union
    - phone: 401-874-5694.
    - website: About our Office – Disability, Access, and Inclusion (uri.edu)

<u>Recommended Resources:</u>

**Mental health resources:**

- As a student, you may experience challenges that negatively affect your learning, such as anxiety, depression, interpersonal or sexual violence, difficulty with eating or sleeping, grief/loss, and challenges related to alcohol or drugs. The University of Rhode Island offers several confidential services that you might find helpful for addressing such challenges, including:
    - Counseling Center: 401-874-2288
    - Psychiatric Emergency Services: Psychological Consultation Center – College of Health Sciences (uri.edu)
    - Sexual Violence Prevention and Response: Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (uri.edu)

**Writing Center:**

- For any writing concerns, you can schedule an individual appointment with a Writing Center member. Writing Center – Academic Enhancement Center (uri.edu)

**AI & Plagiarism:**

- Avoid using AI unless it is to check punctuation.  Write your own ideas and sentences, and carefully select your own words.
- Building on others' words and ideas is an essential element of effective scholarship. However, we must give credit to those whose words and ideas we incorporate into our writing.  Whenever quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing you must cite the source. Using someone else's words, ideas, or work without proper attribution is plagiarism, and such an act is considered a serious ethical violation within the university community.
- Do not plagiarize someone's work or allow your own work to be misused by another person.  Please read below:

Academic Honesty Procedures – Office of Community Standards (uri.edu)

| Unit | Topic | Assignments | Assessments |
|------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Ethical perspectives: Kantianism, Consequentialism, Virtue, Feminist Care | Read: Ethics in a Nutshell Ch.5 pgs. 25-42. <br> Lecture Notes | Discussion post: Introductory Activity |
| 2 | Ishi | Read: <br> Lecture Notes <br> Watch: Ishi the Last Yahi | Discussion Post |
| 3 | Language | Read: <br> Lecture Notes <br> Watch: Why Save a Language? | Discussion Post |
| 4 | Bodies | Read: <br> Lecture Notes <br> Watch: Ishi's Brain <br> Kennewick Man (60 minutes) | Discussion Post |
| 5 | Blood | Read: <br> Lecture Notes <br> Watch: Who Owns the Past? | Discussion Post <br><br> Reflection |

**All Work is due by 1/17/2025!**