



George Morrison Papers

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NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Department of Indian Studies

Title of course: The Arts of the American Indians

Instructor George Morrison

General Description

This course will cover generally the arts of the Indians within the United States - the main divisions being the Eastern Woodlands, the Plains, the Pacific Northwest, and the South and Southwest. Sometime during the course a summary will be made of Central American, South American, Alaskan, and Canadian Indian art. Although the material will deal mostly with the visual arts, the stages of cultural development will also cover mythology, religion, rituals, drama, dance, prose and poetry, from the past to the present day. Also stressed will be the particular relevance of the Indian and his art to the white man (and vice versa) past and present.

Objectives of the Course

To familiarize the student with the Indian and his art, and to help establish a better understanding of the Indian and his problems.

For Whom Intended

For the general student and majors in American Indian Studies.

Course Procedures

Within the classroom a general lecture and discussion procedure will be used - along with slide and movie projectors, tapes and recordings (providing these are available, and whenever possible). Hopefully - visiting people such as Indian dancers, artists, writers or laymen will confront the group. Also, it is hoped that the class will go out into the community - at-large to meet with various Indian groups, schools and organizations.

Books for the Course

Perhaps Dockstader will be used as the general reference book and the others will be suggested reading during the course:
Indian Art in America - Dockstader
American Indian Arts - Seton
Book of Indians - Edited by American Heritage
North American Indian Mythology - Burland
American Indian Prose and Poetry, The Winged Serpent - Edited by Astor
House Made of Dawn - Momaday
Our Brother's Keeper: The Indian in White America - Edited by Cahn
Custer Died For Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto - Deloria

Jan. 22, 1970

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

A) Departmental Designation and Course Number

American Indian Studies

B) Course Title

American Indian Crafts

C) General Description

This course is designed specifically for the research and actual making of American Indian artifacts. Research into the traditional art of different tribes will be paralleled with a studio-workshop where each student will pursue his own projects. Authenticity of source of design will be stressed along with the gaining of facility with materials.

D) Name of Instructor

George Morrison

E) Objectives of the Course

The foremost objective of this course is to help revive and preserve a dying art.

- a) to insure the authenticity of the art by stressing the importance and depth of research in traditional design.
- b) to excite an interest of the art in the future teachers of Indian and non-Indian students; to give them an understanding of the art along with a knowledge of its practical application.
- c) to give that Indian student who is, by tradition, involved in making his art, an opportunity to continue his work and broaden his experience by research.

F) Enrollment

Students majoring in American Indian Studies.
Restricted to about 8 to 10 students.

G) Reasons for the Course

Acculturation, mechanization and mass production, economic conditions, the eclectic borrowing and bad taste of the popular American culture - these are factors in the deterioration and, in some cases, the extinction of authentic arts and crafts of the American Indian. These factors create a situation first of frustration, then disinterest, and to the thought generations an eventual loss of the practical knowledge. It seems imperative for future development of these arts not just to keep it alive but to retain the meaning and identity of the art for the people.

H) Course Methodology

As stated in the description of the course it is designed specifically for the research and actual making of American Indian artifacts. It will be conducted on a studio-workshop basis. The class will research authentic American Indian art and design by seeing and discussing existing artifacts in private and public collections, and by using the attached bibliography. Then each student will create his own artifact. Concentration will be in the areas of beadwork and leatherwork, but if a student is particularly involved in another area he may be free to pursue it if it will apply to the physical conditions of the course.

The facilities required for this course will be one room, not necessarily large, that can be used specifically for this purpose where a workshop can be set up and remain; a room which can be kept locked when not in use. Approximately three large tables, some shelves and smaller tables will be needed for this number of students.

It would be desirable to have as a part-time instructional assistant, an Indian student who is involved and who has facility in the making of his own artifacts and knowledge of others. Also, it will be valuable to engage an Indian craftsman from the area to show his work and demonstrate his skills, at least once or twice during the semester.

Materials for instructional use will be provided by the course. Students will supply materials for their individual projects.

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

A) Departmental Designation and Course Number

American Indian Studies

B) Course Title

American Indian Crafts

C) General Description

This course is designed specifically for the re-research and actual making of American Indian artifacts. Research into the traditional art of different tribes will be paralleled with a studio-workshop where each student will pursue his own projects. Authenticity of source of design will be stressed along with the gaining of facility with materials.

D) Name of Instructor

George Morrison

E) Objectives of the Course

The foremost objective of this course is to help revive and preserve a dying art.

- a) to insure the authenticity of the art by stressing the importance and depth of research in traditional design.
- b) to excite an interest of the art in the future teachers of Indian and non-Indian students; to give them an understanding of the art along with a knowledge of its practical application.
- c) to give that Indian student who is, by tradition, involved in making his art, an opportunity to continue his work and broaden his experience by research.

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Students majoring in American Indian Studies.
Restricted to about 10 students

G) Reasons for the course

Acculturation, mechanization and mass production, economic conditions, the eclectic borrowing and bad taste of the popular American culture - these are factors in the deterioration and, in some cases, the extinction of authentic art and crafts of the American Indian. These factors create a situation first of frustration, then disinterest and the thought generations an eventual loss of the practical knowledge. It seems imperative for future development of these arts not just to keep it alive but to retain the meaning and identity of the art for the people.

H) Course Methodology

As stated in the description of the course it is designed specifically for the research and actual making of American Indian artifacts. It will be conducted on a studio-workshop basis. The class will research authentic american Indian art and design by seeing and discussing existing artifacts in private and public collections, and by study of the attached bibliography. Then each student will create his own artifacts. Concentration will be in the areas of beadwork and leatherwork, but if a student is particularly involved in another area he may be free to pursue it if it will apply to the physical conditions of the course.

The facilities required for this course will be one room, not necessarily large, that can be used specifically for this purpose where a workshop can be set up and remain; a room which can be kept locked when not in use. Approximately three large working tables will be needed for this number of students.

It would be desirable to have as a part-time instructional assistant, an Indian student who is involved and who has facility in the making of his own artifacts and knowledge of others. Also, it will be valuable to engage an Indian craftsman from the area to show his work and demonstrate his skills at least once or twice during the semester.

Materials for instructional use will be provided by the course. Students will supply materials for their individual projects.

Department of American Indian Studies

Statement - February, 1971.

In evaluating my course, The Arts of the American Indian, my feelings have been satisfaction as well as some frustration. The feelings of most students have been for the most part enthusiastic, but in several instances and this includes some Indian students - disinterest.

The class is closed at 40 students and I have had to turn down students after that number in two quarters. The number of Indian students were 7 out of 42 students for two quarters. The drop-out has been 1 student out of 42 for the fall quarter.

I am concerned that the Indian student will benefit as much as possible. He is familiar with some of the material; nevertheless, he is not that knowledgeable of the overall picture, but by strict attendance and by researching a topic of his choice, he does gain.

The basis of the course lies in the lecture-with-slides procedure, and in order to have a good overview and comprehensive survey of American Indian art - pre-Columbian to recent contemporary - I would need about 2000 slides. At present I have only 250 slides. Our own projector would be desirable.

To make the course more broad and interesting, it was my original intention to have visiting artists confront the class. During the fall quarter, the department was able to pay a fee of \$30 each for a Chippewa painter and a Winnebago singer. The comments from some was that this was a very valuable experience. This quarter there were no funds for visiting people.

Also, during the fall quarter we viewed seven short films, and researched authentic American Indian foods. Everyone in the class participated in an Indian dinner by preparing and enjoying over fifty different dishes. This was viewed by many as a meaningful and exciting experience.

Student participation in research topics and presentations of their material has been good. Two students studied style and design of Chippewa moccasins and made examples; another student studied the process of tanning a hide through research and reconstruction of the primitive method in her own home. The end result - the tanned hide was crude but the experience of having done it was remarkable. Some other topics researched were: medicine and herbs, sand painting, Navaho silver-smithing, prose and poetry, Chippewa music, and Plains and Woodland dancing.

It is my intention to propose an extension of the Arts of the American Indian. The topics of these studies will be crafts and film-making, and the courses will be student involvement in the research and creation of these arts.

My hope is to build this area of the department by acquiring necessary equipment, and a library of books, slides and films. This will lend versatility to the breadth, excitement, and the importance due this subject.

George Morrison

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

American Indian Cultural Traditions: Art, Literature and Religion.

| <u>1970-71</u> | <u>Fall</u> | <u>Winter</u> | <u>Spring</u> |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| | American Ind. Art General survey | American Ind. Art General survey | American Ind. Art General survey//and Apparel: costumes masks and artifacts. |
| <u>1971-72</u> | <u>Fall</u> | <u>Winter</u> | <u>Spring</u> |
| | 1. Southwest Indian Art: Silver-smithing Rugs Kachina Cult Kiva Murals Sand Painting Pottery 2. American Ind. Crafts Workshop | 1. Northwest Indian Art: Totems Masks Architecture Canadian and Eskimo influence 2. Amer. Ind. Crafts Workshop | ^{SOUTHEAST &} Woodlands & Plains Art: Beadwork Quillwork Basketry Pottery 2. Amer. Ind. Crafts Workshop |
| <u>1972-73</u> | <u>Fall</u> | <u>Winter</u> | <u>Spring</u> |
| | 1. Southwest Ind. Art 2. American Ind. Crafts Workshop | 1. Northwest Ind. Art 1. American Ind. Crafts Workshop | ^{SOUTHEAST} 1. Woodlands & Plains 1. American Ind. Crafts Workshop |



FACTORS

CONFESABLE

BOND

U.S.A. BANKERS

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

1913

1914

1915

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
150 NASSAU ST. N.Y.C.
NEW YORK

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NEW YORK

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
150 NASSAU ST. N.Y.C.
NEW YORK

D) AMERICAN IND. CULTURAL TRADITIONS:
ART - LITERATURE + RELIGION

LOWER DIVISION:

- a. Arts of the Am. Indian
- b.

UPPER DIVISION

a. Arts of the American Indian

- 1. } Regional
- 2. } sw. etc.
- 3. }
- 4. }

B. American Ind. Literature

c. Media and the Am. Ind. ?
film

d. Am. Ind. Religion

- 1. Values:
 - Tribal
 - Regional

SAMPLE PROPOSAL

11-11-69

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

a) Departmental Designation and Course Number

American Indian Studies (AIS) - 130

b) Course Title

Industrialization, Employment and the American Indian

c) General Description (for Bulletin)

The parallel development of two significant American cultures - the industrialized, urban community of employees and the rural, reservation enclave of largely unemployed Indian Americans with special emphasis on the employment and income maintenance conflicts and problems occurring as a consequence of the rapid cityward migration of Indian Americans since World War II.

d) Number of Credits

Three-Prerequisite: AmIn 60; Anthro 2A, Anthro 80, or GC 27a, 27b, 27c, or by permission.

e) Name of Instructor

Richard G. Woods

f) Objectives of the Course

- (1) A brief survey of historical and cultural influences which have led to the institutionalization of rural poverty communities of Indian Americans. A capsule summary of the concomitant development of urban and suburban communities devoted to a life of achievement, consumption, and display. Peasant economic systems and economic development.
- (2) Specific delineation of the employment and income maintenance problems faced by Indian Americans at both ends of the rural-urban migration continuum. Impediments to assimilation in the urban setting arising from (a) traditional Indian cultural influences and reservation-era influences which contribute to a distinctly Indian perspective of white society and white institutions, and (b) white attitudes and behavior affecting the economic lives of Indian Americans, especially stereotypic notions, discriminatory behavior, and the attitudes of agency personnel (especially employment and welfare professionals.)
- (3) Review of contemporary research into the characteristics of reservation and urban Indian American populations with special attention given to employment consequences.

g) Reasons for the Course

- (1) The developing Department of Indian Studies at the University of

Minnesota will, in part, focus upon the preparation of non-Indians as well as Indians for careers which deal with Indian American populations. Accordingly, course offerings which develop to some considerable extent the nature of inter-cultural conflicts are needed to provide the foundation for careers of active service to Indian Americans.

- (2) By economic yardsticks Indian Americans are among the poorest and most disadvantaged people in the United States, yet some aspects of their history and culture mark them as separate and distinct from a general category of "disadvantaged Americans." Programs of social action (including employment) may need to be grounded in a careful understanding of these differences in order to be effective. Those preparing for careers in industrial relations may need to understand the distinguishing socio-economic characteristics of Indian Americans, since this growing minority group can be expected to interact increasingly with society's institutions.

h) Course Methodology

The principal methods of instruction will be outside reading and lectures combined with class discussion. In addition, when relevant and feasible, appropriate community spokesmen, including Indian Americans, will be invited to speak to the class about selected problems. An alternative to the use of guest speakers would be to employ an Indian Cultural Education Specialist - a knowledgeable community member employed as a tandem teacher particularly for the purpose of providing the perspective and the viewpoint of the minority community.

The textbook(s) for the course are to be determined. James Murray's Industrial Development of Indian Reservations in the Upper Midwest: A Description and Evaluation, Jack Waddell's Papago Indians at Work, Henry Hough's Development of Indian Resources, and a forthcoming book by Alan Sorkin, Manpower and Industrial Development Programs for American Indians would be appropriate text assignments. Because of the special focus of the course, it may be necessary to duplicate for class distribution a number of shorter readings, excerpted from works of broader scope. A number of these works are included in the attached bibliography.

The proposed instructor for the course, a staff member in the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, has previously taught IR 52-152, IR 62, and IR 72. He has just completed an assignment as a tandem report for Social Science 69, Urban Indians in the United States with Professor Arthur Harkins (sociology and education), and Mr. Gregory Craig (a Mohawk General College staff member). He is currently engaged in survey research of urban and rural Indians in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Chicago, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON INDUSTRIALIZATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND THE INDIAN AMERICAN

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN STUDIES

Buffalohead - History.

Dumont - Indian Education, Politics and Social Welfare.

Snook - Chippewa Language.

Morrison - Indian Art History.

Rosalie - Secretary

Arts of the American Indian - Course 5211

Tuesday --- 9:45-11:00

Thursday --- 9:45-11:00

Bleggen Hall - Room 350

Funds for travel (limited)
Funds for Intensive Seminars

Publications

Audio-Visual:

2 films available
few LP records (music)
Department camera available
Tape recorders available
no slides

Note: check with Department of Antropology.

- FALL - 1970

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CLASS - 42

" " IND. STUDENTS. IN CLASS - 6

" " STUDENTS IN DEPT OF IND STUDIES - 2

" " " TAKING THIS COURSE FOR YEAR. 0

" " " OTHER COURSES IN AM. IND. STD.

WINTER Q - 1970-71

42 - students

7 - Indians

Spring Q - 1971

44 - students

3 - Indians