



Cari M. Carpenter

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West Virginia University
3rd – 13th May 2010

Nations Within: Sovereignty, Gender, and American Indians

10:00-11:30 and 14:00-15:30 Monday-Thursday

Course Overview and Objectives: This seminar is an intensive study of the concepts of nationhood and sovereignty as they relate to Native Americans in the United States. We will consider broader theories of nationalism, asking whether they apply to Native sovereignty, as well as specific theories within Native American studies. The concept of sovereignty has a long legal, literary, and strategic history for Native Americans, and is often a disputed term within the field. While most Native Americans agree it is a crucial right that originates in (or existed before) the hundreds of treaties that were signed with colonial powers until 1871, there are multiple interpretations of how it should be defined and used today. In addition to these larger issues of nationhood, we will be especially interested in the following questions: what is the relationship between Native women and nationhood/sovereignty? How is sovereignty gendered within and outside of Native communities? In what sense should (or should not) sovereignty and nationhood be considered synonymous?

Course Schedule and Readings

Week One

May 3: Nationhood Writ Large

Morning: Mayer, "Gender Ironies of Nationalism"; Yuval-Davis, "Theorizing Gender and Nation"

Afternoon: Ortiz, "Toward a National Indian Literature"; Cook-Lynn, "The American Indian Fiction Writers: Cosmopolitanism, Nationalism, the Third World, and First Nation Sovereignty"

May 4: Native American Sovereignty

Morning: Excerpt from Wunder, *Native American Sovereignty*; Wilkins, excerpt from *American Indian Sovereignty and the U.S. Supreme Court*

Afternoon: Excerpt from V. Deloria and Lytle, *Nations Within*; Alfred, "Sovereignty"

May 5: Case Study: Hawaii

Morning: Kauanui, "Native Hawaiian Decolonization and the Politics of Gender"; Trask, "Feminism and Indigenous Hawaiian Nationalism"

Afternoon: Trask, excerpt from *From a Native Daughter*; Silva, "The Queen of Hawai 'i Raises Her Solemn Note of Protest"

May 6: Case Study: Canada

Morning: Barker, "Gender, Sovereignty, and the Discourse of Rights in Native Women's Activism"

Afternoon: Lawrence, "Gender, Race, and the Regulation of Native Identity in Canada and the United States"

Week Two

May 10: Sovereignty in Film

Morning: *Nanook of the North*; *Fast Runner*

Afternoon: Raheja, "Reading Nanook's Smile: Visual Sovereignty, Indigenous Revisions of Ethnography, and *Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner)*"

May 11: Sovereignty and Popular Culture

Morning: Denetdale, "Chairmen, Presidents, and Princesses: The Navajo Nation, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition"

Afternoon: Barker, "Indian TM U.S.A."

May 12: Native Feminisms

Morning: Shanley, "Thoughts on Indian Feminism"; Tohe, "There is No Word for Feminism in My Language"

Afternoon: Ramirez, "Race, Tribal Nation, and Gender: A Native Feminist Approach to Belonging"; Smith and Kauanui, "Native Feminisms Engage American Studies"; Herr, "The Possibility of Nationalist Feminism"

May 13: Conclusion

Morning: Final project proposals; Treaty-as-Literature presentations

Afternoon: Wrap-up discussion

Final Essay Due (via e-mail attachment): _____

gender studies research group

