

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Center for Cross-Cultural Studies

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Cross Cultural Studies – CCS 602 Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights

3 cr.

Spring 2009 Course Syllabus

Course Meeting Times and Location:

January 22 – May 7, 2009
Thurs. 5:15 – 8:15 PM
Audioconference # 1-800-570-3591
PIN#: 9338854

Prerequisites: None.

Instructor: Steven R. Becker, CEP, Assistant Professor of Tribal Management
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Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 10:00 AM to Noon.

Texts: Battiste, M. and J. Youngblood Henderson. 2000. Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: A Global Challenge. Purich Publishing Ltd, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. ISBN: 1-895830-15-X.
Greaves, T. (ed). 1994. Intellectual Property Rights for Indigenous Peoples: A Sourcebook. Society for Applied Anthropology, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. ISBN: 0-9642023-0-1.
Hope, A. and T.F. Thornton (eds). 2000. Will the Time Ever Come? A Tlingit Sourcebook. Alaska Native Knowledge Network, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA. ISBN: 1-877962-34-1.
Riley, M. (ed.). 2004. Indigenous Intellectual Property Rights: Legal Obstacles and Innovative Solutions. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California, USA. ISBN: 0-7591-0486-7.

Course Description: This course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about the cultural and intellectual property rights issues and concerns of Indigenous peoples, internationally and statewide. It will be an introduction into a very complex arena of cultural, political and legal issues, and who the Indigenous groups are, their differences and commonalities. This course is an opportunity to become aware, to educate each other and to guide each other on these complex issues. Included will be opportunities to hear from Indigenous peoples involved in the complexity of defining cultural and intellectual property rights, discussion and examination of various strategies that have been developed internationally to protect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights, their advantaged and disadvantages. With this basic foundational introduction, it will provide the background for students to develop a position paper and to participate in a virtual conference in which to present their papers.

Course Purposes:

- To define the concept of ownership from an Indigenous cultural perspective in comparison to the Western concept of ownership.
- To examine the cultural and intellectual property rights issues amongst International Indigenous peoples.
- To explore cultural and intellectual property rights specific to Alaska's Indigenous peoples.
- To review strategies and protective mechanisms that have been developed to enhance the protection of Indigenous peoples' cultural and intellectual property rights.
- Develop a glossary of intellectual property rights terms from the required reading, textbooks and articles.
- To provide practical experience in participating in a virtual conference on cultural and intellectual property rights and presenting a paper addressing an issue specific to Alaska's Indigenous peoples.

Instructional Methods: This course will utilize a blended on-site and audio-conference lecture format and will rely primarily on readings, practical experiences, written assignments, internet explorations of related websites, and group discussions led by instructor, students and occasional guest speakers.

Course Policies: Students are expected to regularly attend lectures. Students should have the applicable reading completed prior to attending class. Students should call in early so that sessions may begin promptly at the scheduled time. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and online activities. Since this course deals with complex and sensitive issues, everyone is asked to show respect for each other.

Evaluation and Grading: This is a letter grade course. Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the total points possible that a student earned for the course in accordance with the following:

% of Total	Grade
100 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
< 60	F

Total points possible for the course will be assigned and weighted based on the following:

Attendance (10%): Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lecture. Excused absences will receive full attendance points for that class period, however unless it is a medical emergency the student must leave a message for the instructor by either phone or email *prior* to the start of class in order to receive an excused absence. Late arrivals will receive partial credit for attendance.

Participation (10%): Students are expected to actively participate in group discussions, including answering or discussing questions posed by the instructor or other students. Excused absences receive no points for participation for that class period.

CIPR Glossary (5%): Students will contribute to a developing Glossary of Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) Terms. Students are expected to contribute a minimum of five (5) new or substantially different definitions to the glossary to fully meet this requirement.

Course Journal (5%): Prepare weekly 1-2 paragraph journal entries reflecting on cultural and intellectual property rights in the news or facing their village or Tribe. The journal will be presented to the instructor at the end of the course, and then returned to the student.

Class Presentation (5%): Each student will lead a class discussion based on the assigned readings for the class session. The assignments will be set up prior to each audio-conference the student will be presenting.

Interview (5%): Students will conduct an interview with one person who has had experience in dealing with contemporary Alaskan cultural and intellectual property issues. Please discuss your potential choice(s) with me before conducting the interview. Prepare a 3-5 page paper of the interview. The paper should include the cultural and intellectual property rights issue, a description of the situation and the solution reached to resolve the problem(s).

Unit Papers (20%): Prepare a 3-5 page paper for each unit critiquing or elaborating on an issue drawn from the readings, guest lectures, or class discussions.

Final Paper (20%): Using the information presented and discussed in class, as well as personal experiences, draft an 8-10 page final paper in which you focus on a particular cultural and intellectual property rights issue and present the implications for Alaska's Indigenous peoples. Please discuss your ideas with me before beginning your final paper.

Virtual Conference (20%): Students are expected to actively participate in a virtual conference utilizing the ANKN Moodle. Students will post their unit papers and final paper in virtual sessions, and will respond with questions or discussion in other sessions of the conference.

Support Services: The instructor is available upon appointment for additional assistance outside class periods and established office hours.

Disability Services: The UAF Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Your instructor will work with the Office of Disability Services (203 WHIT, 907-474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

UAF Disability Services for Distance Students

- a) UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with the College of Rural and Community Development (CRCDC) campuses and UAF Center for Distance Education (CDE). Disability Services, a part of UAF Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services.
- b) If you believe you are eligible, please visit <http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html> on the web or contact a student affairs staff person at your nearest local campus. You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks Campus at (907) 474-7043, fydso@uaf.edu