Selected Readings

Wind River Reservation and the Shoshone and Arapahoe


Little Bighorn Battlefield (Crow Agency, Montana)


Mount Rushmore & the Black Hills (Paha Sapa)


Pine Ridge Reservation and the Oglala Sioux


Native American Politics

POS 4931
Wyoming, Montana & South Dakota Plains Indian Tribes Experience
Spring Break 2017 (March 4 – 12)

This 1-credit hour course comprises a seven day trip to Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota during Spring Break 2017. Central to the course are visits to the Wind River Reservation (Riverton, WY), home to the Arapahoe and Shoshone Tribes, and the Pine Ridge Reservation (SD), home to the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation. Students will also visit Little Bighorn National Battlefield (MT), site of Custer’s Last Stand, interact with Crow Nation scholars and residents, and tour Mount Rushmore and Badlands National Park (SD).

Students will benefit from on-site lectures and will meet with representatives of tribal governments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), historians, artists, and social/religious organizations to gain first-hand insight into native culture, history, and contemporary challenges to tribal governance, federal-tribal relations, and socio-economic development.
Course Objectives and Approach

The course takes a multidisciplinary approach to tribal politics and federal-tribal relations, emphasizing the intersection of culture, history, and socio-economics for an understanding of the contemporary political situation of Native Americans. **Students from any major are welcome to apply with no prerequisites.**

Course readings/on-site lectures/tours emphasize the varied history of the Wind River Region of Wyoming, the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota, and the Crow reservation in Montana and tribal and intergovernmental politics of the Arapahoe & Shoshone and Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nations, as well as the historical role of church ministries dating to President Ulysses Grant’s Peace Plan enunciated during the election of 1868.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in experiential ‘service learning’ that will accent interaction with reservation residents and the central importance of extra-governmental assistance in the realm of social affairs.

Students are required to complete a 7-10 page ‘reflection paper’, drawing from the course readings, on-site lectures, meetings with tribal and other governmental officials, and cultural encounters. The paper is due by the end of the semester (April 2017).

Site Visit Itinerary

- Visit Fort Laramie, WY (site of 1868 Treaty with the Sioux)
- Visit Wind River Reservation (Riverton, WY)
  - Arapaho Interpretive Center
  - St. Stephen’s Mission
    - Talk by Ron Mamot, editor of the Rendezvous Catholic parish magazine
  - Arapaho/Shoshone gov’t offices
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Visit Dubois, WY & Bighorn Nat’l Forest
  - Talk by Monte Baker, local historian
  - Talk by Tom Lucas, local artist and Wind River Reservation resident
  - Dubois Historical Museum
- Tour Little Bighorn Nat’l Battlefield (Crow Agency, MT) & Crow culture
- Visit Mount Rushmore & Black Hills
- Tour Badlands Nat’l Park
- Visit Pine Ridge Reservation
  - Tour Wounded Knee Memorial
  - Oglala Sioux gov’t offices
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Red Cloud Indian School & Cemetery
  - Dinner/traditional Lakota storytelling

Logistics / Costs

Students are responsible for Registrar fees for the one credit hour, meals, as well as roundtrip airfare from Florida to Denver, CO. **Students must arrive in Denver by Saturday evening, 4 March 2017 & depart Denver Sunday, 12 March 2017.**

The program fee (contingent on enrollment) of ~$1,300 includes ground transportation, 8 nights of accommodations, and entry fees to museums, national parks/monuments, and cultural sites.

For an application and more information, please contact Professor Richard Conley, Department of Political Science, at rconley@ufl.edu or (352) 273-2385.