Fall 2013  
English 461:01  
Film and Culture: America Indians on Film  
Dr. Toni Čuljak

Time and Location: MTWTh 12:00-12:50 (LL106D)  
Lab: M 1:00-3:00 (Science 147)  
Office: LL 403H  
Phone: 963-1531  
E-mail: culjakt @ cwu.edu  
Office hours: M T W 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

Prerequisites: The successful completion of English 101 (C- or better) or its equivalent.

Required Texts:  
• additional readings in .pdf form on Blackboard

Course Description:  
This course explores the relationship between film and society through an examination of the representation of the American Indians on film. As early as 1894, filmmakers made the American Indian the subject of their films. An examination of American Indians on film is an exploration of the history and culture of America. This course explores the changes in the representation of American Indians from Edison’s kinescopes to the New Aboriginal Cinema and the roles American Indians have played as actors, screenwriters, and directors.

Academic Credit and Work Load: CWU stipulates that one credit = a total time commitment of three hours each week of the quarter.  
• This is a five credit course and will require 15 hours of work/ week  
• This takes into account 3 hours and 20 minutes of class (Mon.-Th.: 12:00 to 12:50 PM) and 2 hours of film lab (Monday 1:00-3:00 PM)
- This leaves 9 hours and 40 minutes/week for readings, discussion preparation, study for quizzes, and paper writing, editing, and proofreading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes:</th>
<th>Assessments:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to relate the history of a minority culture (the peoples of a specific race, ethnicity or culture) in film as subjects, actors, and creators.</td>
<td>Quizzes focused on the history of American Indians in film as subjects, actors, and creators. Final Projects</td>
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<td>Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the “film image” in stereotype and social constructs of “self” vs. other”</td>
<td>Oral and visual presentations of Final Project</td>
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<td>Students will be able to demonstrate a critical approach for examining the portrayal of a specific race, ethnicity, or culture in film.</td>
<td>Quizzes on the ideological, historical, cultural and social contexts of the American Indian reflected in a selected films Final Projects</td>
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<td>Students will be able to juxtapose the dominant discourse of the minority culture with the emerging use of film by members of that culture as a part of a larger struggle for “cultural relevance and survivance”</td>
<td>Class discussion and oral and visual presentations on American Indians as depicted in American and international films. Final Projects</td>
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**Grading scale for all assignments will be as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100—94</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93—90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89—88</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87—79</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>74—66</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>61—52</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51—50</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49—00</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Assessment Tools and Grading Percentages:** Students must complete all major assignments in order to receive a grade for the course. Final projects will be graded for form and content. Yes, grammar, spelling, punctuation and formatting count!
- Final Project and Oral/Visual Presentation: 50%
- Weekly Quizzes: 30%
- Attendance and participation: 20%
Performance Policy:

- Students are responsible for knowing all material presented in class and all assigned readings.
- Cheating on quizzes or plagiarizing (i.e., failure to acknowledge the source of ideas or information that is not your own) will result in an "F" for the course.
- Deadline extensions, make-up quizzes, and/or incompletes will not be given except for a dire emergency. You paid for the course, finish it.
- In fairness to all students, in-class activities (e.g., small-group discussions) cannot be made up. Extra-credit work cannot be substituted for in-class activities.
- Film lab attendance is required

Attendance

- I function on the principle that essential demonstrations of adult responsibility and maturity are punctuality and preparedness. Your participation grade will reflect your respectful and informed contributions to classroom discussions. You are expected to attend class (to arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed).
- Attendance is taken via a sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to sign the sheet each day.
- Frequent tardiness will have a negative effect on your class participation grade. If you must miss class for medical or personal reasons, you are expected to notify your instructor by telephone, via e-mail, in writing, or in person as to when and why you will be (or have been) absent.
- **Student athletes** are expected to provide one of your instructors a list of dates on which you will be absent for sports events.
- For all students, more than six absences whether "excused" or "unexcused" will result in your failure in the in-class portion of this course.
- This does not mean that you are entitled to miss six class periods, rather that we make allowances for the vagaries of life including illness and emergencies.
- If it becomes apparent that your attendance threatens your potential to pass this course, we will attempt to arrange a meeting with you to discuss your options.
- You are expected to behave respectfully and appropriately with your classmates and professor. You should not have private conversations during class time.

Readings:

- Reading is part of active learning; you are responsible for this material.
- Readings should be completed before the date they are scheduled to be discussed in class.
- In addition to the required text, a few additional readings will be made available in .pdf format in the Course Documents section of the English 461 Blackboard website. Print out the online documents and bring them to class on the date assigned for discussion.
- Before coming to class, you should read with care and attention and take notes, and then reread the material after class lectures and discussions.
The films, readings, and class lectures are designed to complement one another not to substitute for each other.
If you do not understand the reading materials, you are expected to ask questions in class or during faculty office hours.

Quizzes:
- Regular quizzes on films, lectures, and reading materials will be given.
- Quizzes will be given either in class of online via Blackboard.
- Online quizzes will be posted for a period of 3 hours, during this time you must set aside 20 to 25 minutes to take the quiz. You are only allowed to access a quiz once.
- Quiz questions may take the form of short answer, T/F, multiples choice, essay questions or a combination of these options.
- Quizzes may not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made.

During the final examination period for this class, you will have the opportunity to take a bonus quiz which will allow you to drop your lowest quiz grade.

Final Project: Your final project may take a variety of forms, all of which have a written component and an illustrated oral presentation. Specific details of each type of assignment will be provided in class. Options include:
- Critical Analytical Paper
- Research paper
- Original screenplay treatment for a film on the American Indian.

Students with Disabilities:
- Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should send me an electronic copy of their “Academic Adjustments” as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class.
- Students with disabilities without this documentation should contact the Center for Disability Services Office, Bouillon 140 or ds@cwu.edu or 509-963-1202 immediately.

Academic Dishonesty:
- Academic dishonesty is defined in the student conduct code (http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/student-rights-and-responsibilities) If academic dishonesty is confirmed, the instructor may issue a failing grade for the specific assignment and/or for the course.
- Withdrawing from a course does not excuse academic dishonesty. In cases where academic dishonesty is confirmed, a “W” can be replaced with a letter grade.

Use of CWU email:
- All official communications with current students are supposed to be sent to the student’s CWU email accounts.
• Many students use an alternate email account or alternate internet service provider for their email.
• I will only send email to or respond only to emails sent from the email address listed with the Registrar’s Office.
• If you wish to forward your Groupwise/CWU email to your alternate email account, instructions are at http://www.cwu.edu/~helpdesk/its_fac_faq.html#q3

Cell Phones and Computers:
• Turn your cell phone off and leave it in your bag or pocket.
• Please obtain permission from instructor to use laptops, recording devices, etc.
• If it is necessary to keep the phone on due to an emergency situation, please inform us of the potential emergency, put the phone on vibrate and leave the classroom quietly and quickly to take the call.
• **Texting in class is absolutely not tolerated.** If you are using your phone/texting in class, you will be asked to leave the room immediately. You will also lose credit for attendance and participation that day.
• Use a computer only for taking class notes. If you are using your computer to surf the net or complete assignments for other classes, etc., you will be asked to leave the room and will lose credit for attendance/participation for that day.
• Violation of cell phone and computer use requirements will negatively affect participation grade, and being asked to leave due to such violations will count as a class absence.
• If you have an issue with the above requirements, please see after class or during office hours.

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The High Administrator from the Office of Student Affairs cutting the heart from a student who plagiarized a paper. Students who cheat on quizzes, copy or buy papers, text during class, or otherwise violate policies may experience similar punishments.
Week 1 - Learning Culture
9/25 W: Introduction
9/26 Th: Hollywood's relationship with the American Indian
Reading: *Hollywood's Indian*, Introduction 1-12

Week 2 -- The Silent Era and the Noble Savage
9/30 M: Reading: *Celluloid Indians*, “The Silent Scrim” 16-35 (handout)
Film: *The Vanishing American* (Seitz, 1925, 110 min.)
10/1 T: Discussion
10/2 W: Film: *The Silent Enemy* (H.P. Carver, 1930, 84 min)
10/3 Th: Film: *The Silent Enemy* (continued)
Discussion

Week 3
Film: *The Searchers* (John Ford, 1956, 119 min)
10/8 T: Discussion
10/9 W: Discussion
10/10 Th: Discussion

Week 4
Film: *The Unforgiven* (John Huston, 1960, 125 min.)
10/15 T: Discussion
10/16 W: No Class (Faculty Development Day)
10/17 Th: Discussion

Week 5
Film: *Little Big Man* (Arthur Penn, 1970, 136 min)
10/22 T: Discussion
Discussion
10/26 Th: Reading: *Hollywood's Indian*, “Deconstructing and American Myth” 170-186
Discussion

Week 6
**Film:** *Billy Jack*, (Tom Laughlin, 1971, 115 min.)

10/29 T: Discussion  
10/30 W: Discussion  
10/31 Th: Discussion

**Week 7**

11/4 M: **Reading:** *Hollywood’s Indian*, “Playing Indian in the Nineties” 106-205  
**Film:** *Pocahontas* (Mike Gabriel and Eric Goldberg, 1995, 81 min.)

11/5 T: Discussion  
11/6 W: Discussion  
11/7 Th: Discussion

**Week 8**

11/11 M: **Veteran’s Day – No Class**
11/12 T: **Reading:** *Celluloid Indians*, “The American Indian Aesthetic” 178-206 (handout).  
**Film:** *Medicine River* (Stuart Margolin, 1994, 96 min.)

11/13 W: **Film:** *Medicine River* (continued)  
11/14 Th: Discussion

**Week 9**

11/18 M: **Reading:** *Celluloid Indians*, “The American Indian Aesthetic” 206-232; *Hollywood’s Indian*, “This Is What It Means to Say *Smoke Signals*” 207-228  
**Film:** *Smoke Signals* (Chris Eyre, 1998, 89 min.)

11/19 T: Discussion  
11/20 W: Discussion  
11/21 Th: Discussion

**Week 10 -**

11/25 M: **Film:** *Imprint* (Chris Eyre, 2009, 84 min.)

11/26 T: Discussion  
11/27-28 **Thanksgiving Recess – No Class**

**Week 11 -**

12/2 M: **Film:** *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (Zacharias Kunuk, 2001 136 min.)

12/3 T: Discussion  
12/4 W: Discussion  
12/5 Th: Discussion

**Final Exam Week**

12/12 Th: Oral and Visual Presentations (12:00-2:00 PM)
Internet, Cell-Phones and Texting Policy:

Obviously, the use of electronic devices in modern society has become increasingly commonplace. But the use of such devices is not generally allowed in a class setting. This includes listening to music on I-Pods or other media players, texting or talking on cell phones, emailing, instant messaging, shopping, or ‘surfing’ the internet on I-Pads, laptops or other devices, as well as playing games or watching videos, etc. As these activities are disrespectful and distracting in a learning environment (to you, the instructor and other students), the professors reserve the right to ask students using such devices and engaging in such activities to leave class immediately. If you are asked to leave the class for one of the above-listed infractions, please do not argue the point with the instructor or make a scene upon leaving. Just get up and depart. Students asked to leave will not be readmitted to the class without first coming to the office hours of one of the professors and discussing the issue at length with them. If you have a problem with any aspects of this policy, then do not take this course.

Please turn off or silence all electronic devices at the start of class and use laptops or I-Pads for notes and (occasionally when allowed by the professors) certain in-class assignments only. If you are the kind of person who cannot sit through a course that meets for only a little more than forty-five minutes without using your phone or texting someone, then this class is NOT for you.

By signing this page, you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the above policy. This page should be read, signed, and detached from the syllabus and turned into the instructors on your first day in class.

Signature: 

Print full name clearly:

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Date:

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