

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY CLASS MEETINGS

Native Peoples
Steve Piker, Teacher

Let's take up Shkylnik's book first, Treuer's book second. About three weeks for each. And, weekly topic/question outline, below, is tentative. How one week's discussion unfolds will bear on what we do the following week.

WEEK 1. Introduction

Lecture: Who are the Ojibwa? Cultural identity(or heritage): what is it? Rights: what are they?

- A) Round robin of brief self introductions.....including, as class members may feel so prompted, 'what brought you to this course?'
- B) Reactions to, thoughts about Shkylnik's book
- C) "Two kinds of damage' to communities: Kai Erikson's Foreword
- D) The Grassy Narrows Ojibwa are a broken people: How so? Of what does their brokenness consist? Ch. 1

WEEK 2. How did the Grassy Narrows Ojibwa become a broken people?

Lecture: Traditional culture(s) of foraging people(s), e.g. the Ojibwa

- A) Was the catastrophe a single event? Or.....?
- B) 'A community destroyed' Pre catastrophe, of what did the Grassy Narrows community consist? From the native's point of view(Part II)

WEEK 3. The Settlers in the Grassy Narrows saga

Lecture: Natives in the settlers' picture(s) of the situation

- A) Canadian 'Indian policy'..... and business practices
- B) Were the settlers villains? All of them? Some of them? If so, how so?

C) Might, realistically, the 20th century have worked out better for the Grassy Narrows People? If so, how so?

chs. 8-10

WEEK 4. The Leech Lake Ojibwa..... a more hopeful story?

David Treuer's REZ LIFE is an unconventional book..... history, ethnography, autobiography.....and, withal, a narrative format which reads like a novel. It won't readily fit in to any of

of our familiar 'book' genres..... or the Library of Congress' book category system. Suggest we spend a little time chatting about how we might make good use of this book. Here, a

thought or two on that..... And, along the way, please do share with me suggestions re this as same may occur to you all

Lecture: Who is David Treuer, anyway? And..... what has that got to do with what we are up to?

A) Why did David Treuer write this book? Introduction

B) Fishing rights..... What's the beef? Why is this important to the Ojibwa? How did it play? Did the Ojibwa 'win'? If so, how so?

C) 'Most often rez life is associated with tragedy....But....Reservations and the Indians on them are not simply victims of the white juggernaut.... There is beauty in Indian life.... We love our reservations' From the native's point of view of what does the beauty consist?

WEEK 5. What is desirable? What is possible?

Lecture: Grassy Narrows and Leech Lake: compare and contrast

A) For each, what is desirable? What is realistically possible?

B) For each, how might rights figure in the materialization of better, rather than worse, outcomes?

C) The Leech Lake Ojibwa are much better off than are the Grassy Narrows Ojibwa. How so? How did the difference develop

Week 6. Conclusion

Lecture: American Indians and other major stigmatized and marginalized American groups: compare and contrast

Discussion: In one of the several confabs at which I was present and which treated the territory we are visiting this term, the following came up.....one participant said, in effect....

'Yes, what Indians have suffered at the hands of whites is appalling beyond description. But I was not involved in any of it, I bear no responsibility for any of it.....nor does my family,

which has only been in this country for three generations.' 'Well,' replied another of those present, 'maybe so; but even if so, you - and all of us - are guilty of another sin.' 'Oh, yeah,'

rejoined the first speaker, ' what sin is that?' And the second speaker replied, 'the sin of knowingly being in receipt of stolen property' Setting aside the merits of the respective

points of view, this exchange prompted some of those present(including yours truly)to ponder the question..... givens the indisputable historical and present realities of native/settler, just what - if anything - might be the moral obligations of Josephine and Joe Q.(American)citizen? E.g., us? And, derivatively, possible implications for practice?