



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Humanities Department**

**History 218 Winter 2002**  
**Representation of First Nations in Media**

**Course outline**

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**1. Instructor Information**

Dr. L. D. Hannant  
Office: Young 232  
Office phone: 370-3389  
Office hours: Wednesdays 10:30am - 11:20am; Thursdays 1:30 - 5:00pm; Fridays 1:30pm - 2:30pm, or by arrangement  
Email: hannant@camosun.bc.ca

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Through reading historical and contemporary materials of various types, viewing media, hearing faculty lectures, participating in seminars, writing papers, making presentations, and performing tests, students will

1. gain an appreciation of critical themes, events, and issues relating to the representation of First Nations in media
2. explore the history of North America and the role of First Nations people in it
3. understand the historical and contemporary interaction of newcomers to North America and First Nations societies
4. analyze the process of construction of racial categories and stereotypes
5. reassess and challenge traditional and existing perspectives on critical events and issues relating to these questions

By the end of the course, through exposure to the above materials and ideas, the student should

1. be able to think critically about historical issues, writing and media presentations by evaluating arguments and images, weighing the evidence and impressions they present and making judgments about these arguments and images
2. have gained an appreciation of history as a distinct academic discipline, understanding its unique outlook, scope and methods and what distinguishes it from other disciplines

3. be able to use history to confront the issues of today's world, establishing a context for the present and comprehending the accomplishments, failures, tensions and issues of the present era
4. have developing skills in analyzing media
5. have developing skills in research, writing and written and oral communication.

### 3. Required Materials

History 218 Reading Package, in bookstore

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

#### DISCUSSIONS:

Beginning on Tuesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 23, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the term as indicated in your course outline, we will have discussion sessions. Please ensure that you attend every session and join in the discussion.

For these discussions, the class will be divided into two parts. Group A will meet in discussion from 3:00-4:00pm on Tuesdays, in Young 300. Group B will meet in discussion from 12:30 to 1:30pm on Thursdays in Ewing 201.

The aim of these sessions is to have a wide-ranging, informal discussion based on the films you have seen and on readings from the discussion reading package. Keep in mind that pertinent questions are often very useful. Don't be intimidated if the meaning of some of the reading material is not clear to you. Write down some questions about what you don't grasp and think about possible answers to them. Bring them to class and share them with everyone.

**Keep in mind that you cannot expect to earn a passing grade for the discussion portion of the mark without participating regularly in the sessions. You will be judged on the frequency and quality of your contributions. Attendance alone does not constitute participation.**

#### POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism, the presentation of someone else's work as your own, is a serious academic offence. It carries severe penalties, up to permanent suspension from the college.

#### WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE (changes to the schedule may become necessary)

DATE	TOPIC AND REQUIRED READINGS
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Jan. 7	Introduction and library orientation
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- Jan. 9 View ***Shooting Indians*** (one-page paper; this will be just a trial paper)  
NOTE: room for all Thursday sessions is Ewing 201
- Jan. 14 Film history- lecture; view *Imagining Indians* and *First Nations - Native Stereotyping*
- Jan. 16 The silent film era - lecture
- Jan. 21 In class from 1:00 to 3:00pm we will view ***Nanook of the North*** (one-page paper) and ***The Battle of Elderbush Gulch*** (one-page paper). At 3:00pm, Group A meets in Young 300 for discussion on topic 1 in the reading package
- Jan. 23 Group B meets in Ewing 201 for discussion on topic 1 in reading package
- Jan. 28 Lecture on colonial Canada and America; view excerpts from *Last of the Mohicans* (1920 silent version, 1993 version and *Pocahontas*)  
Group A – Discussion on Topic 2 – the silents
- Jan. 30 Group B – Discussion on Topic 2 – the silents
- Feb. 4 View ***Black Robe*** (one-page paper)  
Group A – Discussion on Topic 3 – the colonial era
- Feb. 6 Group B – Discussion on topic 3 - the colonial era
- Feb. 11 Lecture on the Hollywood Western, the Canadian “Western” and the 19<sup>th</sup> century interaction of Natives and settlers in Canada and the USA (excerpts from *Stagecoach*)
- Feb. 13 Reading break - no class
- Feb. 18 View ***The Searchers*** (one-page paper)  
Group A – Discussion on Topic 4 – the American Western
- Feb. 20 Group B – Discussion on Topic 4 - the American Western
- Feb. 25 View ***Big Bear*** (one-page paper)  
Group A – Discussion on Topic 5 – Audience perceptions of Westerns
- Feb 27 Group B – Discussion on Topic 5 – Audience perceptions of Westerns

Mar. 4	Lecture on the 1960s and 1970s View <b><i>Thunderheart</i></b> (one-page paper)
Mar. 6	Group B – Discussion on Topic 6 -- <i>Thunderheart</i>
Mar. 11	Recent Canadian film and television presentation of Native people; view <b><i>Where the Spirit Lives</i></b> (one page paper) Group A – Discussion on Topic 6 -- <i>Thunderheart</i>
Mar. 13	Everyone – today, in Ewing 201, we view <b><i>The Education of Phyllistine</i></b> (one page paper)
Mar. 18	New films of the 1990s:view <b><i>Smoke Signals</i></b> (one-page paper) Group A – Discussion Topic 7 – <i>Smoke Signals</i> and <i>Where the Spirit Lives</i>
Mar. 20	Group B-- Discussion topic 7 - <i>Smoke Signals</i> and <i>Where the Spirit Lives</i>
Mar. 25	View <b><i>Atanarjuat</i></b> (one-page paper). It's long, so no discussion today.
Mar. 27	No class today
April 1	View <i>A Man Called Horst</i> (no paper on this film) Group A – Discussion on Topic 8 – <i>Atanarjuat</i>
April 3	Group B – Discussion on Topic 8 – <i>Atanarjuat</i>
April 8	Summing up and final exam discussion.

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Your grade will be made up from a combination of written work and participation in regular discussions. These are:

Discussion participation	10%
One-page essays (10 in total)	20%
Essay plan (due Feb. 4)	10%
Essay (due March 18)	35%
Final exam (essay - take home)	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Everyone will hand in a one page paper (250 words, double spaced, hand written or typed) on the following films **at the beginning of the class after each one is showed**: *Nanook of the North*; *The Battle at Elderbush Gulch*; *Black Robe*; *The Searchers*; *Big Bear*; *Thunderheart*; *Smoke Signals*; *Where the Spirit Lives*; *The Education of Phyllistine*; *Atanarjuat*. (In the course outline, each of these films is in bold, so you know which films you must write your one-page paper on. Also note that the proper style for the title of a film is to italicize or underline it, just as one italicizes or underlines the title of a book.)

In these one-page essays you will **identify the argument (or thesis) of each film, and explain what evidence there is for this being the director's thesis**. In other words, explain what **message** the director is conveying to the viewer. I will mark two of the ten one-page essays you hand in, chosen at random. The two I mark will be worth five percent each. The other ten percent will come from submitting the papers themselves. That is, if you submit ten essays on time, you get ten marks. **No late papers accepted.**

English proficiency is essential to a humanities course such as history, and all written work will be judged by its grammatical correctness. While English will be secondary to content in the assigned grade, it is a significant factor.

## 6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

## ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)

### **8. Your responsibility**

History 218 is a university level course, directly applicable to a university degree. So you must be prepared to perform at a university standard. This requires initiative and effort on your part. Specifically, you must:

1. attend class regularly
2. keep up with the readings in the discussion reading package
3. think carefully about what is written in these sources and discussed in class
4. show evidence that you have grasped the facts and concepts from lectures and discussions by making thoughtful observations in discussions and exams.