Anthropology C144/243P
Native American Languages and Cultures

Fall 2001 FINAL Take Home Exam
Due: Wednesday, December 12 by 4:30P in Haines 341 (ANTHRO OFFICE)--hand in to the front desk. Clearly title your work, indicating the course. Adhere to the deadline--late papers will be accepted but all late papers will result in the grade of INC (incomplete).

The Essay
In the second half of the course we have explored five main topics: 1) language and education, 2) verbal art, 3) language contact and multilingualism, 4) language and history, and 5) language and worldview. Do 3 of the Following 5, devoting about equal space to each.

1. Language and Education. In what ways can an attention to language and discourse be useful in the reform of Native American education?

2. Verbal Art. Why is it important to study Native American Verbal Art. What are the challenges to understanding, interpreting, and translating these cultural forms? Give at least three examples.

3. Multilingualism and language contact. What are the forces which determine the outcomes of language contact (e.g. loanwords, grammatical borrowing, language shift). Name at least three different factors and give examples of each.

4. Language and History. Why is it important for cultural groups to control their own history? Does a group's language reflect its history? Are there any problems with such a claim? Does historical linguistics provide tools for the scientific study of the past and the reconstruction of cultural history? If so, provide two examples of this.

5. Language and Worldview/Conclusion. What does it mean to read a people's worldview from their language. Give brief examples from two different languages.

The Rules
1. Your essay, based clearly on the assignment above, should be at least 6 but ideally no more than 8 double-spaced typewritten pages.

2. Your essay will be evaluated according to the following criteria: relevance (are you answering the question posed?), comprehensiveness (have you used all the pertinent course materials available to you?), significance (are you using available space to make important points?), and clarity (is your essay carefully arranged and presented?).

3. The exam is meant to be a display of knowledge gained through the course. Be sure to use all the appropriate course materials available (e.g. lectures, readings, discussions). Do no use sources from outside the course including those on the internet unless you have received explicit permission to do so.

4. You should cite any sentence, idea, or quote that refers directly to a reading or a lecture when this is not "general knowledge" or your own original idea. This both shows your awareness of the sources and prevents you from engaging in plagiarism. So be sure to cite the readings, citing the author's last name, date if necessary, and page (e.g. Kroskrity 98:41, but Newman399.)

5. Remember to use direct quotes to reinforce your ideas rather than as the means to state your idea. In other words--it is your job to appropriately interpret and to context all quotes. You should never assume that their meaning, within your paper, is self-evident.