The Essay

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

1. **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 different examples of contributions to the study of verbal art and how these have improved our understanding of Native American verbal Art. What do Natives use verbal art for?--again provide at least two functions and examples of each.

2. **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. Why, given its pervasiveness, has Native American multilingualism not received proper attention?

3. **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.

4. **Language Revitalization.** What steps have Native Communities taken to attempt to preserve and revitalize their indigenous languages. Using examples from at least four communities illustrate the kinds of programs and the strategies they have employed. What are some of the problems which revitalization efforts face?

The Rules

1. Your essay, based clearly on the assignment above, should be at least 4 but ideally no more than 6 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 not 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, as used within your paper, is self-evident.