Anthropology C169R
Spring Quarter 2005

Instructor: Russell Thornton
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Time: Thursdays 11:00-1:50

Repatriation of Native American
Human Remains and Cultural Objects

Native Americans in the United States recently have been successful in obtaining the passage of federal and state laws not only preventing the further disenfranchisement of human skeletal remains and cultural objects but also repatriating remains and objects to appropriate tribes and individuals. The course will examine this phenomenon. Topics will include a history of federal and state legislation pertaining to repatriation (including religious freedom and the protection of graves); the role and strategies Native American leaders have used in bringing about this legislation; historical practices of "collection" for museums and scholars (i.e., the ways remains and objects have been obtained); ethical issues involved; native objections to the study of this material; the various types of scientific and scholarly knowledge obtainable from skeletal remains, etc. (and the importance of this knowledge); the complexities and difficulties involved in the actual repatriation process; and new relationships which are developing between Native Americans and scholars and scholarly institutions. Course material will be drawn from a variety of sources and disciplines, including recent repatriation cases from the Smithsonian Institution and state museums and universities.

NOTE: Course grading will be based on 70% final, and 30% class attendance and participation.

Required Readings

Books:


On Reserve in the Department of Anthropology Reading Room:


**Course Outline**

One: Overview and Introduction

Videos: *Life Spirit* (24 minutes).

*Thieves of Time* (60 minutes).

Two: No Class

Video: *Science or Sacrilege* (60 minutes). In Media Library

Three: Background

Thornton, "Who Owns Our Past."
Thomas, Parts I, II, III

Four: Repatriation as a Social Movement

Miheuah, ed., pp. 59-120.
Thomas, Part IV, Chapters 18, 19 & 20

Repatriation at UCLA and in the UC System

Reading: Leonard and Feezor-Stewart, "Human Remains at UCLA."

Video:
Five: History of Repatriation Law

History of Federal Law


History of State Law

Readings: Price, pp. 43-133.

International Law

Six: Science, Ethics and Native Americans


Seven: Issues in the Return of Human Remains


Slide Presentation

Video: The Long Journey Home (15 minutes).

Eight: Case Studies: Repatriation of Non-Skeletal Human Remains: Ishi's Brain, Swanson Harbor Jim's Brain, and Sitting Bull's Braid

Slide Presentation

Video: Larson Bay Repatriation (30 minutes).

Nine and Ten: Case Studies: Cultural Objects


Videos: Return of the Sacred Pole (30 minutes). Zuni Repatriation (13 minutes).

Slide Presentations

Final: June 13, 2005. 3:00-6:00