

Title: Turning of the Wheel: A Humanities Exploration

Course Number: "Special Topics" Anth 404

Credits: 3

Instructor: Rodney Frey

Semester: Spring 2012

Days/Times: Tuesday and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45

Room: TLC 139



Seminar Description: Who are we? How are we defining ourselves and our University of Idaho community? What is the interplay between our diversity and our universality? How we conceptualize the interplay between the unique and the universal, between the diverse spokes and common hub/rim of the Wheel has far reaching implications on our capacities for communication and collaboration, for discovery and creativity, for tolerance, respect and empathy, for building and sustaining local and global community. The relationship of the particular and ubiquitous directly affects the learning, research, creativity and civility among and between the students and faculty of the University of Idaho community, and beyond. In an era of entrenched, seemingly mutually-exclusive, partisan politics, respecting our differences and finding "common ground" are all the more critical. To address these intriguing albeit ambitious questions you're invited to take a journey through a series of talks and performances, exhibits and readings, interactive discussions and experiences throughout semester. Our Humanities Exploration will draw from the university - its students and faculty - to help inform and celebrate the university - its students and faculty - and beyond. It's an ethnography of the Vandal Tribe!

Seminar Learning Activities:

1. Participation: attendance and engagement with questions in the Colloquium talks and evening presentations given throughout the spring semester (Tuesdays and a few selected evenings).
2. Seminar Leader: Develop questions and lead discussion during assigned seminar sessions (Thursdays). Depending on the enrollment of the seminar, each seminar participant will lead discussion of that week's colloquium talk, along with an assigned fall semester's talk.
3. Research Project: Addressing the theme of the Humanities Exploration (the interplay of the unique and universals), with implications on our capacities for communications, collaboration, creativity and/or community, research and write a major paper based upon you own field of study and experiences. The research will also be presented as part of the seminar.

Text and Resources:

1. "Stories from the Tin Shed and Wagon Wheel: an essay on lessons from the American Indian Experience for research, writing, pedagogy and our humanity."
2. "Resources and Vignettes" found at <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/humanities/resources.htm>
3. Presentations by Humanities Exploration presenters (texts and images, and YouTube "on-demand-streams" from fall 2011, as well as exhibits and performances, and colloquium talks from spring 2012).

For more information: <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/humanities/index.htm>