

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

## COURSE INFORMATION

**DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT:** Social, Cultural & Media Studies **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Jan. 2000

**Revised:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Anthropology 487</u>	<u>Selected Topics in Northwest Coast Ethnography: Potlatch</u>	<u>4</u>
<b>SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTIVE TITLE</b>	<b>UCFV CREDITS</b>

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course looks at anthropological descriptions and interpretations of potlatching, a key institution of First Nations of the Pacific Northwest. Ecological, social, structural and post-modernist approaches are examined, as well as the roles of kinship and descent groups. The symbolic representations used in potlatch ceremonies and the role of the potlatch/feast system in contemporary court cases are also discussed.

**RATIONALE:** No upper level course on Northwest ethnography is presently available; an upper level course on the Pacific Northwest complements the existing lower level course, ANTH 111, and allows students to delve into greater detail topics introduced in ANTH 111.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** ANTH 102 and ANTH 111 required. ANTH 387 suggested.

**COURSE COREQUISITES:** None

<b>HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>hrs</b>	<b>Student Directed</b>	
	<b>Laboratory</b>		<b>hrs</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>hrs</b>
	<b>Seminar</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>hrs</b>	<b>Other - specify:</b>	<b>hrs</b>
	<b>Field Experience</b>		<b>hrs</b>		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60 HRS</b>

**MAXIMUM ENROLMENT:** 25

Is transfer credit requested? **9** Yes **:** No

### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

<b>Course Designer(s):</b> <u>Douglas Hudson, Ph.D.</u>	<b>Chairperson:</b> _____ (E. Davis) <b>Curriculum Committee</b>
<b>Department Head:</b> <u>Jean Ballard</u>	<b>Dean:</b> <u>J.D. Tunstall</u>
<b>PAC: Approval in Principle</b> _____ (Date)	<b>PAC: Final Approval:</b> _____ (Date)

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### **SYNONYMOUS COURSES:**

(a) replaces     N/A      
                    (course #)

(b) cannot take     N/A     for further credit  
                    (course #)

### **SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:**

### **TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)**

Bracken, Christopher, 1997, *The Potlatch Papers: A Colonial Case History*. University of Chicago.  
Rosman, A., P. Rubel, 1971, *Feasting with mine Enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies*. New York: Columbia University.  
Anth 487 Coursepack (specific articles for each section)

### **OBJECTIVES:**

This course will provide a basis for participants to do the following:

- C demonstrate a knowledge of selected anthropological articles, ideas, and interpretations of the potlatch-feast system in the Pacific Northwest
- C develop a working vocabulary of anthropological concepts used in the interpretation and comparative study of the potlatch-feast system
- C demonstrate a critical awareness of the basic premises and ideas of relevant anthropological articles through writing, discussions, and presentations
- C carry out independent research on a selected topic relevant to the course
- C explain and compare similarities and differences in the potlatch-feast system, especially in terms of varieties of social and political organization, ceremonies, and gender relations

### **METHODS:**

The course is based on lectures, discussions of assigned readings, and seminars. Participants will be responsible for in-class discussions of assigned readings.

**Anthropology 487****NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE**

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**STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

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|---|-----|
| 1. Research paper and presentations 3 x 20 =  | 60% |
| 2. Test   | 20% |
| 3. Participation (based on attendance and participation in discussions, using a discussion/seminar journal) | 20% |

**COURSE CONTENT****Week 1 Introduction to course****Weeks 2-3 Ethnographic Descriptions of the potlatch/feast system****Weeks 4-5 Overview of Interpretations of the potlatch/feast system**

(ecological, economic, social, structural, symbolic)

Wike, J., The Role of the Dead in Northwest Coast Culture. Article

Bracken, Christopher, 1997, The Potlatch Papers: A Colonial Case History. University of Chicago.

Rosman, A., P. Rubel, 1971, Feasting with mine Enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies. New York: Columbia University.

**Weeks 6-8 Descriptions and Interpretations of the Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian clan-feast system**

Cove, J., The Gitksan Traditional Concept of Land Ownership. Article

Rosman, A., P. Rubel, 1971, Feasting with mine enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies. New York: Columbia University.

Readings on Delgamuukw

A/V: Raising the Gilhast Pole; Time Immemorial

Assignment 1

**Weeks 9-11 Descriptions and Interpretations of Kwakwaka potlatching.**

Piddocke, S., 1965, The Potlatch System of the Southern Kwakiutl. Southwestern Journal of Anthropology 21:244-264.

Boas, F., 1966, Kwakiutl Ethnography. Edited by H. Codere. University of Chicago.

Codere, H., 1950, Fighting with property. New York: JJ. Augustin

Bracken, Christopher, 1997. The Potlatch Papers: A colonial Case History: University of Chicago.

Rosman, A., P. Rubel, 1971, Feasting with mine Enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies. New York: Columbia University.

A/V: A Strict Law Bids Us Dance

Assignment 2

**Weeks 11-13 The Potlatch Law and Its Interpreters**

Bracken, Christopher, 1997, The Potlatch Papers: A Colonial Case History. University of Chicago.

Assignment 3

**Week 14 Presentations**

**Reading Resources:**

- Adams, J., 1973, *Gitksan Potlatch: Population Flux, Resource Ownership, and Reciprocity*. Toronto: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Barnett, H., 1938, *The Nature and Function of the Potlatch*. Eugene: University of Oregon Press.
- Blackman, M., *Florence Edenshaw Davidson: The Life of a Haida Woman*.
- Boas, F., 1966, *Kwakiutl Ethnography*. Edited by H. Codere. University of Chicago.
- Boelscher, M., 1996, *The Curtain Within*.
- Codere, H., 1950, *Fighting with property*. New York: J.J. Augustin.
- Cole, D., I. Chaikin, 1990, *An Iron Hand upon the People*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre.
- Drucker, P., R. Heizer, 1967, *To Make my Name Good*. Berkeley: University of California.
- Goldman, I.,
- Harkin, M., 1997, *The Heiltsuks: Dialogues of Culture and History on the Northwest Coast*. University of Nebraska.
- Jonaitas, A., 1986, *The Art of the Northern Tlingit Seattle*. University of Washington.
- Kan, S., 1989, *Symbolic Immortality: The Tlingit Potlatch of the Nineteenth Century*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- La Violette, F., 1973, *The Struggle for Survival*. University of Toronto.
- Levi-Strauss, C., 1982, *The Way of the Masks*. Vancouver,: Douglas & McIntyre.
- Piddocke, S., 1965, *The Potlatch System of the Southern Kwakiutl*. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 21:244-264.
- Rosman, A., P. Rubel, 1971, *Feasting with mine Enemy: Rank and Exchange among Northwest Coast Societies*, New York: Columbia University.
- Seguin, M. (Ed.), 1984, *The Tsimshian: Images of the Past: Views for the Present*. University of BC
- Sewid-Smith, Daisy, 1979, *Prosecution or Persecution*.
- Suttles, W., 1987, *Coast Salish Essays*. Vancouver,: Talonbooks.
- Ruddell,
- Walens, S., 1981, *Feasting with Cannibals: Metaphor and Morality in Nineteenth Century Kwakiutl Culture*. Princeton University.
- Wike, J., *The Role of the Dead in Northwest Coast Culture*. Article.

**Journals:**

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| American Anthropologist                      | American Ethnologist                          |
| American Indian Culture and Research Journal | B.C. Studies                                  |
| Canadian Journal of Native Studies           | Canadian Review of Anthropology and Sociology |
| Cultural Survival Journal                    | Culture                                       |
| Ethnohistory                                 | Ethnology                                     |
| Arctic Anthropology                          |   |