NEW COURSE

ENST 491 Nature and Native Americans

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of environmental knowledge of Native Americans and their relationship with nature by analyzing ethnographic sources, to provide a foundation for understanding contemporary environmental issues within Native American communities.

PURPOSE: This course will emphasize the environmental knowledge of Native peoples of the Northern Great Plains before significant contact with Americans and Europeans. Although the course will explore several different groups, it will compare and contrast the lives of two groups, the Blackfeet (as hunter/gatherers) and the Hidatsa (as agriculturalists). It will explore how Native peoples shaped their different environments whether they were hunters or farmers, how they utilized domesticated or wild (plants and animals), and the various societal roles of women and men. The course will also examine how Native peoples found meaning within nature and how nature helped shape their reality.