

Helping the Navajo Rebuild with Project Pueblo and Forgotten People Ethnic Studies 98/198 Section 1

Wednesdays 5-7 PM

Room TBA

2 Units

Fall 2011

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Class contact info

<http://www.projectpueblo.org>

Course description

In this class, we will be covering and addressing the issues and problems that residents of the Navajo Nation continually face, specifically in the Bennett Freeze area of the reservation, and this course will culminate with a one-week service trip to the Navajo reservation. You will not only be learning about these topics, but will be actively involved in solving them. Throughout the semester, in addition to reading, watching, listening to, and discussing articles, videos, speakers, and issues, respectively, you will be working alongside Project Pueblo (student group at Cal) and Forgotten People (non-profit organization based in the Navajo community) in their efforts to eradicate poverty within the reservation.

Why the Navajo reservation? The specific area that we are working on is called the Former Bennett Freeze. Beginning in 1966, the United States put a “freeze” on all construction within a 2 million square mile area in the Western part of the reservation. The reason was a Hopi-Navajo land dispute, and this law meant to last only a few months until this was sorted out. However, it ended up lasting 44 years (it was finally rescinded in 2009), and during this time, no roads, repairs, or building of any kind was allowed. Since this law was strictly enforced by the police force of each tribe, the people have suffered and the land is extremely undeveloped. Only 3% of the homes have access to electricity, only 10% have access to running/clean water, and only 25% have adequate shelter. Additionally, decades of uranium mining and haphazard cleanup has led to numerous accounts of environmental degradation, much of which has yet to be dealt with.

Project Pueblo (www.projectpueblo.org) was founded in 2009 in order to conduct low-cost, short-term service trips to locations close to home. Due to the issues described above, we have focused exclusively on the Navajo Nation and have since sponsored 12 trips comprised of 227 students, most of which are from UC Berkeley.

Forgotten People (www.forgottennavajopeople.org) is the only grassroots non-profit organization based in and comprised of Former Bennett Freeze residents. Since 1994, they have been fighting long and hard to deal with the issues described above as well as government corruption and coal mining related issues.

Teaching Methods

We will use a variety of teaching methods, including traditional lectures, discussions, readings, videos, and the like; in addition, as part of this class, you will be involved in service-learning opportunities, both here in Berkeley and during the one-week service trip. We have five facilitators in total and we will divide the class into six different modules (you will be assigned based on your interest and abilities). These modules will each be led by a different facilitator, focusing on different ways to help the community. They include helping with grant proposals, working on websites, organizing future projects, reaching out to the Berkeley and neighboring communities, drafting press releases, developing short-term and long-term strategies, and the like.

The class time will be divided between the traditional discussion/lecture format and a module/workshop format. In discussion/lecture we will go over the readings and their related topics. The second half of the class will be a module/workshop hour in which you will focus on your own project with your workshop leader. We will also invite guest speaker(s) from the community.

During the one-week trip, you will have an exciting and unique opportunity to immerse yourself within the Navajo culture and issues that you have been learning about throughout the semester, effectively tying it all together while making a major impact.

Course learning objectives

The objective of this course is to provide a venue where you can not only learn about the issues surrounding the Navajo Nation and the Former Bennett Freeze, but where you can ***actually do something about it!*** As a group, we are interested in not only making a dent in the 3%, 10%, and 25% problems listed above, but we are hoping to lay the foundation to completely eradicate these issues within the next 10-15 years. Another objective is for you to have a ton of fun! The trip especially will be a great experience!

Required texts

We will have one required textbook, *Rebuilding native nations: strategies for governance and development*, by Miriam Jorgensen (University of Arizona Press, 2007). In addition, we will also focus on reading articles published in reputable newspapers and sources. These will be made available to you electronically throughout the semester, and you will need to access and print them.

Evaluation procedures and assignments

In order to pass, you must show up to all the classes during the semester. You will also need to attend the one-week service trip at the end of the semester. You must also complete all assigned readings and homework prior to the beginning of the next class. We will require you to write two blog entries (400-500 words each) during the semester, one based on the readings and other things related to the issues that we will discuss in class and the other based on your module/workshop project. If you get behind, you will need to contact us and work something out so you can receive a passing grade. **IN ADDITION, YOU MUST ATTEND THE ONE-WEEK SERVICE TRIP, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Enrollment procedures

In order to enroll in this class, you will have to do the following:

1. Fill out the online class application. Link to application is available online @ <https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dE1kTkdJLVpULVpfLXJhbUZI RDQ2b2c6MQ#gid=0>
2. Show up the first day of class (August 31 @ 5pm – Room TBA). **You must attend the first day of class if you wish to enroll.**

If the demand for the class is too high, we will have to restrict enrollment. **While we will do our best to enroll everyone who is interested, we might not be able to due to space constraints. In this event, we will select class members based on the application above and their attendance the first day of class.** This all will be decided on August 31, so just make sure you fill out the online application and show up the first day. If you get in the class, we will be giving out CCNs and CECs to those who have registered.

Class schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Facilitator
1	Aug 31	Introduction to Class, Project Pueblo, and Forgotten People, Students Pick workshop groups	All Facilitators
2	Sep 7	Introduction to the The Bennett Freeze/Begin workshop with each facilitator	All Facilitators
3	Sep 14	Introduction to housing issues/workshop	Dixon Li/Anna Yap
4	Sep 21	Introduction to water issues/workshop	Richard Pauloo
5	Sep 28	Guest Lecturer	Dr. Lee Greer - Le Sierra University
6	Oct 5	Workshop	All Facilitators
7	Oct 12	Introduction to Energy Issues/Workshop	Sean Wycliffe
8	Oct 19	Guest Lecturer	Don Yellowman/ Marsha Monestersky - Forgotten People
9	Oct 26	Workshop	All Facilitators
10	Nov 2	Introduction to Social Issues/Workshop	Anthony Rodriguez/Jeff Nagata
11	Nov 9	Guest Lecturer	Bijibah Begaye - Native Youth Service
12	Nov 16	Workshop	All Facilitators
13	Nov 23	Workshop	All Facilitators
14	Nov 30	Conclusion/Reflection	All Facilitators

Reading Schedule

Week 1

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: People in Need

<<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-people-in-need/>>

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: The Faces of Navajo Nation

<<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-the-faces-of-navajo-nation/>>

Gallup Independent - Thawing the Freeze (Jun. 6, 2010)

<<http://www.forgottennavajopeople.org/media/6%2026%2010%20Thawing%20the%20Freeze%20Gallup%20Independent.pdf>>

Week 2

Los Angeles Times - Trying to Rebuild After 40 Frozen Years

<<http://articles.latimes.com/2009/nov/05/nation/na-bennett-freeze5>>

Week 3

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: Without the Basics (Oct. 16, 2009)

<<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-living-without-the-basics/>>

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: No Longer a Home (Oct. 16, 2009)

<<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-no-longer-a-home/>>

Gallup Independent - No Magic Bus (Dec. 26, 2009)

<http://www.forgottennavajopeople.org/articles/gi_nomagicbus.pdf>

Week 4

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: Uranium Contamination (Oct. 27, 2009)

<<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-uranium-contamination/>>

Gallup Independent - Black Falls Water Everywhere but None to Drink (June 1, 2009)

<<http://www.gallupindependent.com/2009/06June/060109deadlywater.html>>

Gallup Independent - Black Falls Elders recall forced removal to contaminated land (May 30, 2009)

<<http://www.gallupindependent.com/2009/05May/053009deadlywater.html>>

Los Angeles Times - Oases in Navajo desert contained 'a witch's brew' (Nov 20, 2006)

<<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-navajo20nov20,0,1812957.story>>

Week 5

Guest Speaker – No Assigned Reading

Week 6

Workshop Week – No Assigned Reading

Week 7

Los Angeles Times - Uranium claims spring up along Grand Canyon rim (May 4, 2008)

<<http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-trw-uranium4-2008may04,0,4620796.story>>

Los Angeles Times - A peril that dwelt among the Navajos (Nov 19, 2006)

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-navajo19nov19,0,5351917.story>

Los Angeles Times - Navajos seek funds to clear uranium contamination (Oct 27, 2007)

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-na-navajo24oct24,0,1848950.story>

Los Angeles Times - Mining firms again eyeing Navajo land (Nov 26, 2006)

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-na-navajo22nov22,0,4617662.story>

Los Angeles Times - Navajos' desert cleanup no more than a mirage

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-navajo21nov21,0,2271711.story>

Week 8

Guest Speaker – No Assigned Reading

Week 9

Work Shop Week – No Assigned Reading

Week 10

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: Keeping Culture Alive (Oct. 16, 2009)

<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-cultures-collide/>

Pavement Pieces - The Forgotten Navajo: A Family's Pain (Oct. 16, 2009)

<http://pavementpieces.com/the-forgotten-navajo-a-familys-pain/>

Week 11

Guest Lecturer – No Assigned Reading

Week 12

Workshop – No Assigned Reading

Week 13

Workshop – No Assigned Reading

Week 14

Conclusion – No Assigned Reading