Course Title:
Seminar in Middle Eastern History: Stateless People

Course Number:
HIST 6600-105

Course Description:
This course will address the various problems in the world today regarding the involvement of “Stateless People.” It has been a hallmark of American foreign policy ever since the Spanish American War that political instability is bad for American business. It challenges the foundation of Liberal International Capitalism, a foreign policy paradigm first developed by President Woodrow Wilson. While the United States has generally followed the precepts of this concept in its foreign policy, recent events have intimated that a major problem exists. In dealing with Middle Eastern and Southeastern world states, we have encountered many so-called “Stateless People.” Such people can be found in many countries of the world that often have unstable, or recently created, governments. Such groups exist for a multitude of reasons; some have a unique ethnic identity, others, cultural differences that evolve from different economic or social formation, still others practice different religions than the dominant group, or even have basic differences regarding political organization.

The groups that we intend to study in this course include a host of significant but relatively unknown groups. Among them are the Kurds, the tribes of southern Sudan, the people of Kosovo, the mountain tribes of Southeast Asia, and the Taliban and the various tribal groups of Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are found in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. All have distinct identities, but most have a strong tribal past that literally prevents, or hinders, state formation. The questions we will consider regarding all of these varied groups include what is the relationship between tribalism and statehood? How does the United States deal with groups that lack a general political organization and accepted political leaders? And finally, what can we learn about these groups that will help us better deal with; even create relationships, with them?

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: April 30-May 6, 2012
Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 1, 2012

Site Director:
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Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Gary Clayton Anderson
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of History
DAHT 311
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-325-2178
E-mail Address: gclaytonanderson@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed around a “Seminar” format. Students should read the required books before our first meeting. Classes will begin with lectures from the professor, introducing a topic and ending with a series of questions for students to consider. Issues covered include “tribalism,” and its definition, issues regarding “Human Rights” in the World today, and finally, the role of the United States in dealing with people around the world who are “ Stateless.” Following this introduction, students will participate in a discussion, focusing on one of the assigned texts. The class will be divided into groups, each group being responsible to introduce the thesis and give a substantive outline of one of the six required reading texts.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

The course will also require a research paper of roughly ten pages, double-spaced, with footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. While students writing the paper can use one of the above assigned reading books as a source, as a general rule, students should consult at least five or six other sources for the paper, including articles. Students may pick the topic themselves that relates to the general discussion in class. A reading list will accompany this syllabus which will give students an idea of the sort of sources that are acceptable.
Due Dates:
The paper will be due three weeks after the last day of the course. It is strongly encouraged that students finish the paper on time as there may be a problem with further enrollment in the program or even funds to pay for the class if the professor is forced to give an “I” for the course grade. If students cannot finish the paper within the three week period, they may take an “I” and finish the paper later. It is customary to give students one year to finish up a course, such as handing in a paper. But students should check with the OU site managers to determine how make-ups have an impact on their future enrollment in the program.

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grading is determined by two equally important assessments. Half the course will consist of participation in discussion. Students are encouraged to become involved in the discussions that the professor introduces in the early lectures, and, especially in the discussion that is forthcoming from the groups who will present material. The more of the readings that a student has mastered before class, the easier it will be for that students to participate.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Supplemental Readings:

The New World, its People, its Religion, and its Ethnicity.

- David McDowall, *A Modern History of the Kurds*.
General Studies of Globalism and Current World Problems:

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy
Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty
Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement
The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies
Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright
Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Gary Clayton Anderson
George Lynn Cross Research Professor

Education
- 1978 PHD, University of Toledo
- 1972 MA, University of South Dakota
- 1971 BA/BS Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2002
- Professor of History, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- HIST 6200 Episodes in American Foreign Policy: the Mexican, Russian and Cuban Revolutions
- HIST 6200 Seminar in European History: War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide in the Modern World
- HIST 6600 Seminar in Middle Eastern History: Stateless People

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Western and American Indian History
- Latin America and Diplomatic History

Representative Publications and Presentations
Author of seven major books and several dozen articles, the most recent of which is: The Conquest of Texas: Ethnic Cleansing in the Promised Land, 1820-1875 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005).

Representative Honors and Awards Received
The Conquest of Texas was awarded three prizes:

1. It was “Nominated” for the Pulitzer Prize, which means that it was one of the final twenty-five books read by the committee (out of 2,000 which were submitted).
2. The book was selected as the “Best Book on Texas History” by the San Antonio Conservation Society
3. The book received “An Award of Merit” from the Texas State Historical Association

Major Professional Affiliations
- Organization of American Historians
- Western History Association
- American Society for Ethnohistory