

Metropolitan Community College

SOCI 1100 4A Fall, 2011

Week #7 Objectives

Read the Introduction to Part VI (p. 302) and all five Articles. After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Examine the impact of spiritualism, holism, and sacred places in Indian country
2. Compare and contrast creation stories
3. Evaluate the historical context behind the collection of Native American remains and artifacts in museums, universities, historical societies, and private collections
4. Review legislation protecting Native American burial sites and ordering repatriation of human remains and artifacts

Part VII: The Sacred: Spirituality and Sacred Geography

Family. Education. Spirituality. All critical to the survival and revitalization of Native American cultures. In this unit you will become aware of some of the important issues facing American Indians in the area of spirituality and honoring their past through their ancestors. We are guided through a lesson on the impact that ritual, song, and dance have in Native communities from a spiritual sense. You will review the importance of creation stories, and also discuss the concerns revolving around the issue of "whiteshamanship". In other words, who has the expertise, let alone the right, to teach and guide Native Americans, and others, on these spiritual matters. And lastly, you will focus on the issue of repatriation and the efforts to recover what was once feared lost - a spiritual connection to the past and hope for the future.

Week #7 Assignment -- Due: at class time on October 27

In order to receive full credit, your assignments must:

1. Be written in your own words and in complete sentences,
2. Incorporate examples when possible,
3. Be typed (word processed) and double spaced,
4. Include an introductory statement and/or a concluding statement,
5. All content from text or other sources are to be appropriately referenced and documented
6. Be generally grammatically correct, proofread for typing/spelling errors and readable.
7. Include appropriately formatted reference citations

After reading Suzan Shown Harjo's article titled "American Indian Religious Freedom Act After Twenty-Five Years" (p. 337) answer all of the following questions: (30 points)

- 1) After reading this article, how would you judge the overall success or failure of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act?
- 2) Give an example of how a federal agency has failed to implement or has been slow in implementing the repatriation requirement of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act).
- 3) According to Harjo, what "is the most glaring item on AIRFA's agenda?"

Read the editors' box titled "Indians Aren't Specimens - Indians Are People" (p. 328) and write a short paragraph on the following issue. (10 points)

The U.S. government's Smithsonian Institution holds the largest collection of Indian human remains and associated grave offerings in the nation. How do you feel about this collection?

Refer to the article (p. 317) in the text titled "Who Owns Our Past" by Russell Thornton and answer all parts of the following questions (30 points):

- (a) What does the author mean by the article's title, "Who Owns Our Past"?
- (b) Explain how so many Native American human remains came to reside in universities, museums, historical societies, and private collections.
- (c) What two key laws mandate the protection and repatriation of Native American human remains and sacred objects? What two problems remain?

Vocabulary quiz on November 1 -- see page 342 and class notes

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Durkheim, Emile
Elders	First Amendment rights
Indian Crania Study	Repatriation
National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Act of 1989	
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990	
Revitalization movement	Smithsonian Institution
The sacred	Specimen complex