

## American Indians and Their Lands (AIS/POLS 492)

Dr. John Glover, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at Black Hills State University, received a grant from the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) for a cross-listed American Indian Studies (AIS) and Political Sciences (POLS) course entitled *American Indians and Their Lands* (AIS/POLS 492).

The content of the pilot course was presented and designed by Dr. John Glover based upon curriculum developed by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. The three credit undergraduate experience was offered at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD as an intensive, weeklong format that began on Friday, May 6 and ended on Saturday, May 14, 2005.

The twenty-one undergraduate students who completed the American Indians and Their Lands (AIS/POLS 492) course examined native world views regarding “territoriality”, indigenous land use, European concept of “discovery” and title ownership, the historic changes in US Federal policies that have impacted native “ownership” with emphasis upon the delineation of Indian Reservations. Removal Policies, Trust Obligation, Plenary Power, the role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the General Allotment Act, Indian Reorganization Act, Termination Era, and the present agendas of Self-Determination. Throughout, a special emphasis was focused on the present day impact of “fractionation” of Indian parcels. Emphasis was also placed on recognizing past and present native “property” concepts and needs to the current realities of Indian land status so as to provide an informed individual capable of best handling contemporary Indian land issues.

The course included the following guest speakers: USD Law Professor and Tribal Judge Frank Pommersheim, BHSU Humanities Chair Ronnie Theisz, BHSU American Indian Studies Professor Jace DeCory, ILTF Intern Janet Routzen, and Attorney Charles Abourezk.



For more information, please contact our office at:

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