

ALASKA POLICY FRONTIERS: EXPLORING FUTURE REALITIES

PADM A 671 801

FALL SEMESTER 2021

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTORY CLASS            AUGUST 27, Friday, 5:30-9:30

FIRST WEEKEND SESSION:      October 08, Friday, 5:30-9:30

  October 09, Saturday, 8:00-5:00

  October 29, Friday, 5:30-9:30

  October 30, Saturday, 8:00-5:00

  November 19, Friday, 5:30-9:30

  November 20, Saturday, 8:00-5:00

Friday Sessions:                5:30 to 9:30

Saturday Sessions:            8:00 to 5:00

Instructor:                      Dr. William L. Iggiagruk Hensley

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OVERVIEW

It is a truism that history is written from the vantage point of the nation and those who have the power over institutions and the historical view. It is unusual and

difficult for history to be taught by those who may have lost control of their space, resources, institutions, values, language, art, music and meaningful ceremonies.

This is a course that will include Alaska's history and economic life from the perspective of the first nations that inhabited Alaska from time immemorial. But, it will also examine Alaska from the perspective of governmental economic and public policy and the effect on the population generally.

There will be an overview of the Russian period to examine their motivations, explorations, personalities and interactions with the indigenous peoples. It will also examine the Russian American Company and its goals and accomplishments prior to the sale of its interests in Alaska to the United States in 1867.

The post-Russian period in Alaska will be examined from the point of view of the goals and aspirations of the United States; its administrative and economic decisions; the acts passed by congress to accomplish its objectives and its treatment of the indigenous peoples from a legal, academic and economic perspective.

There will be a discussion of specific economic and political events in Alaska to portray what conditions allow for the success or failure of the enterprise. We will discuss the implications of Alaska's relatively small population, huge land mass, climate, high costs and distance from markets.

We will have talented and experienced visiting speakers who will address economic, governmental and cultural issues unique to Alaska. There will be presentations on the unique nature of Alaska Native institutions that have evolved such as the Native Corporations, regional non-profits, tribes and community development quota fishing organizations.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Become familiar with the beliefs and values of Europeans and the reflection of these in the actions of the explorers

- Review the initiatives of Russia and other colonizing countries that resulted in their presence in and near Alaska and become familiar with key personalities who left a legacy in the north.
- Understand the primary indigenous cultures of Alaska and the territories that they controlled
- Explore the combined role of church and state in the exploration and control of Alaska.
- Understand the Russian expansion into Alaska, the origins of the Russian American Company and its experience in the Pacific and Northwest.
- Understand the United States /American Indian and Alaska Native legal relationship
- Review the primary resources that brought Europeans to Alaska (fur, whaling, gold, seafood, timber, minerals)
- Examine the issue of Alaska lands and the conflict over ownership and passage of federal legislation
- Understand the role of oil and gas in the evolution of Alaska and to explore the future if additional exploration is unsuccessful.
- Understand the role of the corporation as a vehicle for social and economic change among Alaska Natives.

### COURSE FORMAT

The course will be in a seminar format, group discussions, lectures, guest presentations and a variety of audio and video items from the archives. We will have guest panels to provide in-depth discussions on course subject matter. There will be active decision-makers who will provide insight on key public policy and business issues.

There will be periodic breaks to allow for private time during the class but cell phones will be muted during class.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to attend the classes and participate in the discussions. A 20- page paper will be required by those taking the course for credit on a topic agreed to by the student and the professor. The paper will determine the grade along with attendance and participation. The paper will be in a Word document, double-spaced and in 12 font with proper literary and interview citations.

Timetable and grade:

Topic selection and up to two page research proposal:	Oct. 9	10%
Outline and sources for paper	Oct. 30	10%
Class Presence and participation		20%
Quiz		10%
Final Paper Deadline:	Nov. 20	50%

### REQUIRED READINGS

- William L. Iggiagruk Hensley, "Fifty Miles from Tomorrow", Picador, 2010
- William L. Iggiagruk Hensley, What Rights to Land Have the Alaska Natives: The Primary Issue", go to "Alaskool.org", Go to " content areas-Alaska Native," click on Land Claims.
- Thomas R. Berger, "A Long and Terrible Shadow, White Values, Native Rights in the Americas, 1492-1992", p. 1-25.
- Holmberg's Ethnographic Sketches, Heinrich Johan Holmberg, The University of Alaska Press, 1985, pp. 71-103.
- V.A. Divin, "To the American Coast: The Voyages and Explorations of M.S. Gvosdev, the Discoverer of Northwestern America, Whitestone Press, 1997. Pp. 39-72.

- Grigorii I. Shelikhov, "A Voyage to America", 1783-1786", Translated by Marina Ramsay, The Limestone Press, 1981. Pp 1-35.
- Kyrill T. Khlebnikov, "Colonial Russian America", 1817-1832", Oregon Historical Society, 1976. Pp. 1-15.
- The Khlebnikov , "Unpublished Journal (1800-1837) Edited by Leonid Shur, University of Alaska Press, 1990, pp. 45-68.
- Frederick Schwatka, "A Summer in Alaska in the 1880s", Castle Books, 1988. Pp. 346-363.
- Linda S. Parker, "Native American Estate", p. 3.
- Hubert Howe Bancroft, "History of Alaska", 1886, reprint, Antiquarian Press, Ltd. Preface, p. v, vi, p. 222-227.
- Claus M. Naske and Herman E. Slotnick, "A History of the 49<sup>th</sup> State, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, p. 54.
- Nikolai N. Blekhovitnov, "American Expansion in the Mid=Nineteenth Century", 1834-1867, The Limestone Press, 1996, p. 37-40.
- Additional suggested readings will be added during the course.