

**Common Course Outline**  
**NAST 217**  
**Contemporary Native America**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**NAST 217 – 3 credits – Contemporary Native America** provides an overview of the current status of Native American nations and people in the United States. Topics include legal statutes, sovereignty, economic development including gaming, treaty rights, land use issues, natural resources, activism, legal cases related to Indigenous peoples, community development initiatives, reservation life, urban life, federal, state, and tribal politics as they relate to Indigenous peoples in the US, justice and criminal jurisdiction, identity, recognition, health, education, cultural maintenance, and colonization versus decolonization.

**3 Credit Hours**

**Prerequisites: NAST 127 or permission of the coordinator**

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. evaluate contemporary interactions between Native Americans and the United States government;
2. analyze the contemporary issues as related to health, education, government, economics, and representation;
3. identify the phenomena of dehumanization, stereotyping, and policies of assimilation as they relate to Native Americans;
4. analyze the experiences of various Native American groups based on such factors as regional location and ideology;
5. recognize the contributions Native American cultures and persons have made to American society;
6. analyze the relationship between contemporary Native American societies and American society as a whole;
7. compare Native American issues to similar situations on a global scale;
8. identify biases in both primary and secondary documents; and
9. evaluate the role of electronic media in historical research and analysis.

**Major Topics**

- I. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- II. Native American identity and recognition
- III. Native census data and demography

- IV. Native political and legal status
- V. Native economics and gaming
- VI. Native environmental concerns
- VII. Native health concerns
- VIII. Violence in Indian Country
- IX. Native language loss and revitalization
- X. Native religions – traditional vs. progressive
- XI. Native museums
- XII. Native social culture – The PowWow Highway
- XIII. Stereotypes, mascots, and popular culture
- XIV. The search for sovereignty

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Regular attendance and class participation in discussions/activities.
2. At least two in-class exams/quizzes.
3. Analyzing a variety of primary and secondary texts. This is a writing assignment.
4. In class presentations and/or group work.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments. The course will include at least one significant writing/research assignment or several smaller writing assignments equaling at least a total of five pages. In completing the writing assignment, students will utilize academic sources appropriate to the discipline.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective course in the Native American Studies Program.