

Cannibal Woman Society Course Outline

Northwest Coast Culture

- Origins and Distribution
- Social Organization - Lineage, Clan and Moiety
- Social Stratification & Economic Organization
- Subsistence Economy vs Social Economy
- Material Symbols of Rank

The Potlatch System and the Social Economy

- Organization of the Potlatch System
- Functions of the Potlatch System
- Instability in the Potlatch/Lineage System
- Periodic bubbles in the Social Economy of the Potlatch
- Recent History of the Potlatch
 - Population/Lineage collapse on the NWC
 - Kinship networks and patterns of inheritance
 - Excessive competition within the Potlatch
 - Outlawing of the Potlatch by Canadian government
- Limits in reconstructing the traditional Potlatch System

The Copper - ultimate symbol of the Potlatch System

- Antiquity of copper use in Northwest Coast Cultures
- Value of copper in antiquity
- Symbolic value of copper in the culture and the potlatch
- The Copper as a symbolic object
- Role of The Copper in the potlatch - inflation of its value
 - The Copper dilemma in the social economy

Cannibal Woman Myths

- Boreal belt cannibalism and the proper way to go insane
- Cannibal Woman in NWC culture - deeply embedded
- Elements of the Myth
- Myth is real when you are a part of it.
- How myth is used in social interaction

The Cannibal Woman Society - making the myth real

- Is your son is being possessed by Cannibal Woman?
- The role of the Shaman
- The role of the Cannibal Woman Society
 - Completing the psychosis in the forest primeval
 - Curing the psychosis at the Winter Dances

Where did that economic bubble go, anyway?

- The economic drama during the winter dances
- The Cannibal strikes
- The dance of Raven and his Cannibal Birds
- Binding the Cannibal - Cannibal Woman is defeated
- The breaking of the Copper and its revaluation
- Benefits of the Cannibal Woman Society
 - Mythological harmony
 - Psychological well-being
 - Economic stability restored
 - Lineages bound together

Humorous parallels