

## WORKING WITH NATIVE AMERICAN CLIENTS IN NON-NATIVE SETTINGS:

1. Be a learner. Listen. They don't expect you to know.
2. Ask about tribal membership and regional ties and family connections.
3. Be cognizant of power and privilege differentials
4. Learn to recognize "invisible" agency barriers
5. Understand that they know more about your culture than you do about theirs. They haven't had the luxury of not taking notice.
6. Don't ignore culture (or over do it). Explore their family upbringing in terms of active cultural participation.
7. Build rapport. This is part of crossing the cultural barriers.
8. Many urban Indians suffer from identity confusion.
9. Be aware of historical and generational trauma factors.

### Contrasting Native and Non-Native Societies:

CO-575, Dr. Jeff King

#### Individualistic

Dominant over nature  
Control over environment  
Individual over group  
Nuclear family  
Independent, autonomous, self-sufficient  
Personal control  
Linear comm. (cause-effect, chains)  
Intellectual confrontation  
Direct (verbal)  
Procedural  
Time oriented  
Aggressive

#### Collectivist

Equal to nature  
Harmony with environment  
Group over individual  
Extended family  
Interdependent, part of the group, cooperative  
Controlled by the collective  
Circular (develop context around main pts)  
Relational confrontation  
Indirect (non-verbal, signal systems, stories)  
Personal  
Event oriented  
Invitational, waits to be invited

**DOMINANT CULTURE AND NATIVE WORLDVIEW:** from "*Creating Understanding*," (1992) Donald K. Smith  
"In the model of culture presented here, *worldview* is equivalent to the core, an overall term embracing values and beliefs. It includes the culture's ideas about the nature of reality, the nature of God, of humankind, or the universe, and of the relationship between God, the universe, and human beings..."

### **DOMINANT CULTURE CORE (Verses the Native American Experience within the Dominant Culture)**

In the mid-twentieth-century, Cora DuBois of Harvard University proposed a succinct statement of the "Dominant Value Profiles of American Culture," (1232-39). It included four basic principles"

1. The universe is mechanistically conceived (verses the earth is our mother)
2. Man is the master of the universe (verses coexistence with nature)
3. Men are equal (verses the experience of disenfranchisement)
4. Men are perfectible (verses being considered inferior)

### **DOMINANT CULTURE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY VALUES IN CONFLICT WITH NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES**

1. Personal control over environment
2. Change by potentially destructive means seen as natural and positive
3. Time and control of time: Time gets objectified into a "commodity"
4. Equality/Fairness. (Espoused but not a historical reality)
5. Spiritually is optional
6. Individualism/Independence
7. Competition (individualism)
8. Future orientation
9. Action/Work oriented
10. Overt Directness
11. Practicality/Efficiency is primary
12. Materialism/Acquisition