

RELS 260 Native America Religions

(11:00 pm MWF, JWST 333, Fall 2018)

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Office Hours: MW 12:00 – 1:30
(or by appointment)

Course Description: For the last five hundred years native peoples have struggled to maintain their cultural and religious heritage in the face of invasion, exploration, colonization, loss of land, and the denial of their spiritual values. This course is designed to introduce you to Native American religions of North America and to discuss the consequences of invasion and the oppression of the native way of life. We will survey four representative native traditions: Mesoamerica (Maya and Aztec), Ani Yun'wiya (Cherokee), Dine (Navajo) and Lakota (Sioux). We will study these traditions in terms of the general history of discovery, settlement, warfare, federal control, land loss, and reservation life in the present. In each religious tradition, we will discuss cosmology, rituals, belief in spirits, life after death, sacred stories, symbols, the importance of place and land, with a brief review of the ethnohistory of each community. We will also discuss several Pan-Indian traditions: peyote, ghost dance, spiritual ecology and review some laws passed with regard to Native American religious freedom.

Books:

d'Azevedo, Warren L. *Straight with the Medicine: Narratives of the Washoe Followers of the Tipi Way*. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2006.

Carrasco, David. *Religions of Mesoamerica: Cosmvision and the Ceremonial Centers*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, **Second Edition, 2013**.

Crow Dog, Mary and Ricard Erdoes. *Lakota Woman*. NY: Grove/Atlantic Press Reprint, 2011.

Young, William. *Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions*. New York, NY: Seven Bridges Press, 2006.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions, missing more than three classes can result in a lower grade. The assignments in this course include the following: THREE 15 minute quizzes (5% each = 15%), THREE exams (20% each = 60%), TWO 4-5 page papers (10% + 15% = 25%).

No excuses will be accepted for missed assignments or exams, such as oversleeping, lost books, or being stuck out of town. If you have a legitimate excuse, please talk to me before the scheduled assignment. All missing assignments will receive a failing grade. Students must make up any missed assignments within one week (or receive an F); if you miss more than two assignments you will receive an automatic WF and be dropped from the course.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): This course meets the requirements for General Education Certification based on the following two SLO. Outcome 1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture. Outcome 2: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. Paper Two (15%) will meet this requirement.

Honor Code: Lying, cheating, and plagiarism are violations of the Honor Code and are not permitted at the College. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student responsible for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course. Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating.

Writing Lab: Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 843.953.5635 or visit <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>.

Disabilities: If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter to me from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Please discuss with me any special needs you may have. For more information regarding accommodation and the SNAP program, see: <http://www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm>

Grading Scale: Numerical and letter grades: A = 95-92; A- = 91-89; B+ = 88-86; B = 85-82; B- = 81-79; C+ = 78-76; C = 75-72; C- = 71-69; D+ = 68-66; D = 65-63; D- = 62-60; F = 59 or lower. I regard a B grade as normative for meeting all class requirements and assignments; a higher grade requires more effort while an A grade represents outstanding performance; lower grades reflect not meeting class requirements in the normative sense.

Assigned Readings: Each weekly assignment is in two parts, the first part due Monday, the second due by Wednesday. Please do the readings by the due date (not later), that way you will be prepared for the lecture and discussion.

- I. **Week One**, August 22, 24: Introduction to Native American Religions
 - A. Reading Assignment: Young, 9-25; Carrasco, pp. 1-10

- II. **Week Two**, August 27, 29, 31: Cosmivision and Aztec Religion
 - A. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 11-40
 - B. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 41-74
 - C. **Pass out Paper #1 Assignment, August 31**

- III. **Week Three**, September 3, 5, 7: Maya, Aztec and Colonialism
 - A. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 113-146 (Maya)
 - B. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 75-112 (Aztec)

 - C. **QUIZ ONE, Mesoamerica: September 5**

- IV. **Week Four**, September 10, 12, 14: Native Ethnohistory, Overview
 - A. Reading Assignment: Carrasco 147-187
 - B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 25-46

 - C. **PAPER ONE, DUE September 12, Mesoamerican Religions**

- V. **Week Five**, September 17, 19, 21: Ani'yun'wiya (Cherokee) Religion
 - A. **EXAM ONE, September 17** (Mesoamerica Only)
 - B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 105-122

- VI. **Week Six**, September 24, 26, 28: Ani'yun'wiya (Cherokee) Religion
 - A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 122-136
 - B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 137-154

- VII. **Week Seven**, October 1, 3, 5: Dine (Navajo) Walking in Beauty
 - A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 221-245
 - B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 246-258

 - C. **QUIZ TWO, October 1**

- VIII. **Week Eight**, October 8, 10, 12 Dine (Navajo) Walking in Beauty
A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 258-271
B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 46-59

C. **EXAM TWO, October 12** (on Cherokee and Navajo)
- IX. **Week Nine**, October 15, 17, 19: Native Ethnohistory, Ghost Dance & Peyote
A. Reading Assignment: Young pp. 273-299
B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 301-328
- X. **Week Ten**, October 22, 24, 26: PanIndian Religion, Peyote
A. Reading Assignment: d'Azevedo, xi-48
B. Reading Assignment: d'Azevedo, 49-120
- XI. **Week Eleven**, October 29, 31, November 2: Lakota Religion
A. Reading Assignment: Young, 155-220
B. Reading Assignment: Crow Dog, 1-54

C. **QUIZ 3, October 31**
- XII. **Week Twelve**, November 5 (**No Class, Break**), 7, 9: Lakota Religion
A. Reading Assignment: Crow Dog, 55-110
B. Reading Assignment: Crow Dog, 111-155
C. **Pass out SLO Paper #2 Assignment, Nov 9**
- XIII. **Week Thirteen**, November 12, 14, 16: Lakota Religion
A. Reading Assignment: Crow Dog, 156-198
B. Reading Assignment: Crow Dog, 199-263
- XIV. **Week Fourteen**, November 19: Ghost Dance, Peyote, Lakota
A. **EXAM THREE, November 19**
- XV. **Week Fifteen**, November 26, 28, 30: Native Ecology
A. Reading Assignment: Young, 329-362

B. **SLO Paper Due, November 30**
- XVI. **Week Sixteen**, December 3, Last Class, Conclusions
A. Reading Assignment: Young, 363-386

B. **EXTRA CREDIT**, all extra credit due by December 5