REL 260 Native America Religions  
(10:50 & 1:40, TR, ECTR 219, Fall 2014)

Dr. Lee Irwin, Religious Studies Department  
4-B Glebe Street, Room 201  
E-Mail Address: IrwinL@cofc.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:30, 12:30-1:30  
(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), and Diné (Navajo). 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, native theology, and review some laws passed in the 20th century with regard to Native American religious freedom.

Books:

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions, missing more than two 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 3-4 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.
Center for Student Learning offers academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843) 953-5635.

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.

Assigned Readings: Each weekly assignment is in two parts, the first part due Tuesday, the second due by Thursday. 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 19, 21: Introduction to Native American Religions
   A. Reading Assignment: Young, 9-25; Carrasco, pp. 1-10

II. **Week Two**, August 26, 28: Cosmovision and Aztec Religion
   A. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 11-40
   B. Reading Assignment: Carrasco, pp. 41-74
   C. **Pass out Paper Assignment #1**

III. **Week Three**, September 2, 4: 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 4**

IV. **Week Four**, September 9, 11: Native Ethnohistory, Overview
   A. Reading Assignment: Carrasco 147-187
   B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 25-46
   C. **PAPER ONE, DUE September 11, Mesoamerican Religions**

V. **Week Five**, September 16, 18: Ani’yun’wiya (Cherokee) Religion
   A. **EXAM ONE, September 16** (Mesoamerica Only)
   B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 105-122

VI. **Week Six**, September 23, 25: Ani’yun’wiya (Cherokee) Religion
   A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 122-136
   B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 137-154

VII. **Week Seven**, September 30, October 2 Dine (Navajo) Walking in Beauty
   A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 221-245
   B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 246-258
   C. **QUIZ TWO, October 2**

VIII. **Week Eight**, October 7, 9 Dine (Navajo) Walking in Beauty
    A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 258-271
    B. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 46-59
IX. **Week Nine**, October 14, 16: Native Ethnohistory, Ghost Dance  
A. **EXAM TWO, October 14** (on Cherokee and Navajo)  
B. Reading Assignment: Young pp. 273-299

X. **Week Ten**, October 21, 23: PanIndian Religion, Peyote  
A. Reading Assignment: Young, pp. 301-328  
B. Reading Assignment: d’Azevedo, xi-48

XI. **Week Eleven**, October 28, 30: Washoe Peyote; Ecology and Native Religion  
A. Reading Assignment: d’Azevedo, 49-120;  
B. Reading Assignment: Young, 329-362  
C. **Pass out Paper Assignment #2**

XII. **Week Twelve**, November 4 (No Class!), 6: Native American Theology  
A. Reading Assignment, November 6: Kidwell, Noley, Tinker 1-61

XIII. **Week Thirteen**, November 11, 13: Native American Theology  
A. **SLO PAPER TWO DUE, Peyote, November 11**  
B. Reading Assignment: Kidwell, 62-84  
C. Reading Assignment: Kidwell, 85-112

XIV. **Week Fourteen**, November 18, 20: Native American Theology  
A. Reading Assignment: Kidwell, 113-148  
B. Reading Assignment: Kidwell, 149-180  
C. **QUIZ THREE, November 20**

XV. **Week Fifteen**, November 25: Concluding Remarks (Last Class)  
A. **EXAM THREE, November 25**  
B. **EXTRA CREDIT**, turn in a critical response to Kidwell, Noley, Tinker