PLEASE NOTE: I have not offered this course for several years, due to released time for course development projects. On my next offering, I would update both the reading lists, with more focus on Native authors, as well as films.

Description

Introduction to the study of non-Western religions, analyzing primal cultures and early civilizations using Amerindian examples, considering traditional (Ojibwa to Inca) and contemporary (American Indian Movement, Peyote Religion) phenomena and their interrelationships with Western religion. Canadian examples will predominate.

The course will be divided into three parts. First, we will examine representative Native American religions prior to contact with European and Euro-American culture. In the second part, we will consider the effects on these religions of domination by the colonial powers. Finally, we will focus on responses to these deleterious effects, including the contemporary revitalization of Native religions.

Course Requirements

10%: Class participation (including preparation for discussion as well as meaningful participation in discussion).

10%: Class report (in-class oral and written book report; oral - maximum 12 minutes; written - 1000-1500 words). Report must include a) bibliographic data, b) description of book, c) aspects relevant to week's topic, d) evaluation, e) representative quotations. Books for report will be chosen from those works listed as R# in the course outline; first come, first served. Reporters should be prepared to lead class discussion on book in relation to week's theme and assigned reading. No make-up of the oral report is possible.

15% & 25%: Two examinations (in-class, closed book, cumulative, comprehensive essay questions based on understanding the course material and requiring extensive reference to the course readings; make-up examinations will be given only in case of documented hospitalization or incarceration).

Examination questions: Mid-term: Rewording of Part I of Course Description above.

Final: Rewording of entire Course Description above, plus open-ended question(s) regarding personal interpretations of course themes.

(No special examination preparation will be necessary for students who prepared for and took part in class discussions. For students who did not do so, no special preparation will adequately prepare them for
Project: Topic and format completely open but format and/or media (not the topic) must be one in which the student has prior experience and topic and format must be approved by course director.

Project requirements and due dates (all submissions must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date in the classroom):

a) written statement of preliminary topic due: Nov. 10.

b) written statement of topic and annotated bibliography due: Jan. 5.

c) written statement of progress and outline (in outline form) due: Feb. 2.

d) completed project due: March 2.

Second copy of requirements "a" through "c", with course director's comments, will be returned the week following the due date; students must be present at class to receive them.

Students notified of required changes on the second copy must return the revision (two copies) at the following class (two classes after original due date).

Course Materials

Summer Reading List (one-day reserve)

1. Leo W. Simmons, ed., Sun Chief (Yale U. Press)

2. Thomas E. Mails, Fools Crow (U. of Nebraska)


Book List (available in paperback and on 2-hour reserve)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Books that are out of print* will available from Kinko's.

FURTHER IMPORTANT NOTE: Students should not assume that course director agrees with the tone, expressed attitudes, opinions, data, etc. of assigned readings. Students are expected to learn to read various types of material concerning Native religions with a critical eye.

A. Wolfgang Jilek, Indian Healing (Hancock House)

B. William Powers, Yuwipi (U. of Nebraska)

C. Thomas E. Mails, Fools Crow (U. of Nebraska)

D. Jordan Paper, Offering Smoke (U. of Alberta)

E. Ruth Underhill, Papago Woman (Waveland Press)

F. Anthony Wallace, The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca (Vintage)
G. Gene Weltfish, *The Lost Universe* (U. of Nebraska)

H. Marla Powers, *Oglala Women* (U. of Chicago)

I. Leo W. Simmons, ed., *Sun Chief* (Yale U. Press)


K. Paul Radin, *Autobiography of a Winnebago Indian* (Dover)

L. *Salerno & Vanderburgh, Shaman's Daughter* (Dell)


N. James Mooney, *The Ghost Dance Religion* (Dover)

O. Weston Labarre, *The Peyote Cult* (Oklahoma)

**Syllabus (Available at Kinko's)**

I. Paper, "Slighted Grandmothers: The Need for Increased Research on Female Spirits and Spirituality in Native American Religions."

II. Paper, "Through the Earth Darkly"

III. Paper, "Sweat Lodge': A Northern Native American Ritual for Communal Shamanic Trance."

IV. Hallowell, "Ojibwa Ontology, Behavior and Worldview."

V. Jenness, *The Indians of Parry Island, Their Social and Religious Life*

VI. Selections from Benton-Banai, *The Mishomis Book*

**Report readings** [R:] (see course outline - on one-day reserve)

Reserve list (all books listed above and under "R" below, plus the following recommended for reference):

Hultkrantz, *The Religions of The American Indians*

Hultkrantz, *Belief and Worship in Native North America*

Hultkrantz, *The Study of American Indian Religions*

Sullivan, *Native American Religions, North America*

Vecsey, *Religion in Native North America*

Carrasco, *Religions of Mesoamerica*

**Films** (to be shown in class)

September 22: *The Shadow Catcher*
Course Outline

[**denotes readings relevant to feminist studies; #denotes extra credit; list number = week]

1. CANCELLED Intro. to course and Native American traditions
2. INTRODUCTION
   Problems and the missing element| Kit:*I,*II
3. Ecstatic states and reality| A: 3, B: all
   R3a: *Horse Capture, ed., The Seven Visions of Bull Lodge
   R3b: Lizot, Tales of the Yanomami
4. Shamanism| C (review if you read it during the summer)
   R4a: #Merkur, Becoming Half Hidden
   R4b: #Wilbert, Tobacco and Shamanism in South America
   R5a: Radin, The Road of Life and Death
   R5b: Walens, Feasting With Cannibals
6. Myth| *D: 3
7. **PART I**

Northern Woodland| Kit: IV, V

R7a: Brown and Brightman, *The Orders of the Dreamed*

R7b: **Dahlberg, ed., Woman the Gatherer**

8. Mixed economy: desert| **E: all**

R8a: *Wyman, Blessingway*

R8b: **Frisbie, Kinaalda, a Study of the Navaho Girl's Puberty Ceremony**

9. woodland| *F: part I*

R9a: Tooker, *The Iroquois Ceremonial of Midwinter*

R9b: Tooker, *An Ethnography of the Huron Indians, 1615-1649*

10. plains| G: (chap.) 5-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15, 23-24, 30, 32, 34-36, 61-62,

R10a: Catlin, Ewers, ed., *George Catlin's O-kee-pa*

R10b: #*Powell, *Sweet Medicine* (2 Vol.)*

11. Herding| **H: 1-6**

R11a: **Jones, *Sanapia, Commanche Medicine Woman***

R11b: Nabakov, *Two Leggings*

12. Gardening| I (review if you read it in the summer)

R12a: #*Geertz & Lomatuway'ma, *Children of Cottonwood*

R12b: **Brown, *Tsewa's Gift***


R13a: **Silverblatt, *Moon, Sun, and Witches***

R13b: Carrasco, *Quetzalcoatl and the Irony of Empire*

14. **PART II**

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Post-contact effects I| K: all
15. Post-contact effects II | *L: all
   R15a: **Landes, Ojibwa Religion and the Midewiwin
   R15b: Venuous, The Ojibwa Dance Drum

16. Post-contact effects III | M: all
   R16a: Deloria, Jr., God is Red
   R16b: #Geertz, The Invention of Prophecy

17. PART III
   Transformative Movements: Handsome Lake | *F: part III
   R17b: Dusenberg, The Montana Cree, A Study in Religious Persistence

18. Ghost Dance | N: pp. 2-36, 60-73, 88-200
   R18a: Edmunds, The Shawnee Prophet
   R18b: Martin, Sacred Revolt

19. Native American Church | O: 1938 part
   R19a: Stewart, Peyote Religion
   R19b: Steinmetz: Pipe, Bible and Peyote Among the Oglala Lakota

20. Revitalization: modern Midewiwin | Kit:VI
   R20a: Jorgenson, The Sun Dance Religion
   R20b: Dewdney, Sacred Scrolls of the Southern Ojibway

21. Northwest Coast | B: 1-2, 4-12
   R21a: LaViolette, The Struggle for Survival
   R21b: Ruby & Brown, Dreamer-Prophets of the Columbia Plateau

22. A.I.M. | **H: 7-12
   R22a: Lame Deer and Erdoes, Lame Deer, Seeker of Visions
   R22b: #Matthiessen, In the Spirit of Crazy Horse
23. Continuity: the Pipe | *D: 5-6

R23a: Black Elk & Lyon, *Black Elk. The Sacred Ways of a Lakota*

R23b: Young, *Cry of the Eagle: Encounters With a Cree Healer*

24. FINAL EXAMINATION
25. STUDENT PROJECTS
26. STUDENT PROJECTS

http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwaar/syllabi/religions_native_american_peoples-paper.html

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