Religious Studies 14  
Introduction to Native American Religious Traditions and Philosophies  
Fall 2009  
Professor: Inés Talamantez  
Lecture: M, W, & F 9:00am – 9:50am (LSB 1001)  
Honors Section: W 11:00-Noon (HSSB 3024)  
Office: HSSB 3069  
Office Hours: M & T 10:00am – 11:00am and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:  
Rafael Gamboa – Office Hours by appointment  
gramboa@umail.ucsb.edu  
Tue 8:00-8:50 Girvetz 1106  
Tue 5:00-5:50 Girvetz 1106  
Tue 6:00-6:50 Ellison 2816  
Wed 8:00-8:50 Girvetz 1106

Tara Villalba – Office Hours by appointment  
tvmunson@umail.ucsb.edu  
Thu 11:00-11:50 Girvetz 1106  
Thu 12:00-12:50 Ellison 2816  
Thu 1:00-1:50 Ellison 2816  
Thu 6:00-6:50 Ellison 2816

Course Description:  
This course is a collaborative effort involving professor, graduate students and undergraduate students. It is a multidisciplinary exploration of the nature, structure and meaning of ritual acts and language in the religious life of Native American cultures. Intensive study of selected authors and their recent work will be analyzed in this course. Approaches to understanding myth and symbolism include the interrelations among different media (visual, oral/aural, tactile, and plastic), elements of performance, theories of harmony and nature, knowledge and power, the dynamic of transformations in sacred narratives and ceremony, as well as rites of initiation and healing. Attention will also be given to contemporary issues, which involve the encounter of traditional life ways with modern secular society, social justice, and freedom of religion.

Course Requirements:  
Section participation and oral presentation 25%  
Paper Topic, Paragraph Description, Bibliography 25%  
Analysis of 3 class readings (3pages) 25%  
Final Research Paper (8-10 pages) 25%  
Total (100%)

Required Texts:  
Keith H. Basso: Wisdom Sits in Places  
Ladislav Hanka: The Crooked Tree Prints  
Ella Cara Deloria: Waterlily  
Editors: Richard A. Grounds, George E. Tinker & David E. Wilkins: Native Voices  
Linda T. Smith: Decolonizing Methodologies  
Reader – Available from the Alternative Copy Shop

❖ Students are expected to complete the readings listed BEFORE attending that day’s lecture. TAs may add further section assignments based on the readings to make sure students read and adequately understand the materials. These assignments will be graded as part of the Section Participation grades.

❖ Papers must be double-spaced, 12 font with 1” margins

❖ Students are required to present their Final Paper orally in section towards the end of Fall quarter.
**Class Schedule:**

**WEEK 1: Sacred Narratives and Kinship**

**Course Introduction**

- **FRI, September 24**
  - Ella Cara Deloria, Preface, Chapters 1-7 *Waterlily*

- **MON, September 27**
  - Ella Cara Deloria, Chapters 8-12 *Waterlily*

- **WED, September 29**
  - Ella Cara Deloria, Chapters 13-end *Waterlily*

**WEEK 2: Survival, Stereotypes, and Identities**

- **MON, October 4**
  - Joy Harjo, “The Psychology of Earth and Sky” in *Native Voices*: 3-5;
  - Clara Sue Kidwell, “Ethnoastronomy as the key to Human Intellectual Development and Social Organization” in *Native Voices*: 5-19
  - Joy Harjo, “There Is No Such Thing as a One-Way Land Bridge” in *Native Voices*: 243-245

- **WED, October 6**
  - Glenn Morris, “Vine Deloria, Jr., and the Development of a Decolonizing Critique of Indigenous Peoples and International Relations” in *Native Voices*
  - IN CLASS FILM – *Smoke Signals*

- **FRI, October 8**
  - Sherman Alexie – excerpts from *The Lone Ranger and Tonto fistfight in heaven*
  - in Reader
  - IN CLASS FILM – *Smoke Signals*

**WEEK 3: Understandings of Power**

- **MON, October 11**
  - Keith Basso, Chapters 1 & 2 (3-70) *Wisdom Sits in Places*

- **WED, October 13**
  - Guest Lecture: Natalie Avalos Cisneros – Indigenous Notions of Power

- **FRI, October 15**
  - Will Roscoe, “Dreams of Power: Third and Fourth Genders in Yuman Culture and History” from *Changing Ones*, in Reader
  - IN CLASS FILM – TWO SPIRIT

**WEEK 4: Sacred Language and Land**

- **MON, October 18**
  - Keith Basso, Chapters 3 (71-104) *Wisdom Sits in Places*

- **WED, October 20**
  - Keith Basso, Chapter 4 (105-152) *Wisdom Sits in Places*

- **FRI, October 22**
  - Susan Lobo, “Urban Clan Mothers” from *Keeping the Campfires Going*, in Reader
  - ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE – Paper Topic, Paragraph Description, Bibliography

**WEEK 5: Forced Displacement and Surviving Genocide**

- **MON, October 25**
  - Manulani Aluli Meyer, “Indigenous and authentic : Hawaiian epistemology and the triangulation of meaning” from *Handbook of Critical and Indigenous Methodologies*, in Reader

- **WED, October 27**
  - Julian Aguon, Introduction, Of Mice Not Men (9-46), Love In The Time Of Cholera, What We Bury At Night (115-136) in Reader
Islanders”, Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization in Reader.

WED, November 3
Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Chapter 3 (58-77) Decolonizing Methodologies

FRI, November 5
Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Chapter 4 (78-94) Decolonizing Methodologies

**WEEK 7: Decolonizing Our Minds**

MON, November 8
Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Chapters 5 & 6 (95-122) Decolonizing Methodologies

WED, November 10

FRI, November 12
Aurora Levins Morales, Preface and Introduction (xxiii-xxxi), Premonitions (50-54), Remedios in Reader
Inés Hernández-Ávila, “The Power of Native Languages and the Performance of Indigenous Autonomy: The Case of Mexico” in Native Voices: 35-74
ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE: 3 – Page analysis of selected class readings

**WEEK 8: Contemporary Scholars and Theories**

MON, November 15
Richard Grounds, “Yuchi Travels: Up and Down the Academic “Road to Disappearance” in Native Voices: 290-317

WED, November 17
David Wilkins, “From Time Immemorial: The origin and Import of the Reserved Rights Doctrine” in Native Voices: 80-96

FRI, November 19
Inés Talamantez “Transforming American Conceptions about Native America Vine Deloria, Jr, Critic and Coyote in Native Voices: 273-289

**WEEK 9: Recovering Landscapes**

MON, November 22
Ladislav Hanka, The Crooked Tree Prints

WED, November 24
IN-CLASS FILM, Black Ash Basketry: A Story of Cultural Resilience

FRI, November 26
University Holiday, NO CLASS

**WEEK 10: Healing**

MON, November 29
Aurora Levins Morales, “Historian as Curandera” in Medicine Stories: 11-56 in Reader

WED, December 1

FRI, December 3
IN CLASS FILM – In The Light of Reverence

FINAL PAPER DUE: THURSDAY, December 9, 2010