

**Religious Studies 193: Religion and Ecology in America**  
**Environmental Studies: 189**  
**Spring 2012**

**Professor Inés Talamantez**

**Lecture: T Th 9:30-10:45AM**

**Location: North Hall 1105**

**Office: HSSB 3069**

**Office Hours: Wed. 11 AM - 1 PM, or by appointment**

**Email: [talamant@religion.ucsb.edu](mailto:talamant@religion.ucsb.edu)**

**Course Description:**

This course will analyze specific themes critical to the understanding of indigenous ways of knowing and the impact of colonialism. We will explore the major factors contributing to the intellectual history of Indigenous America and the contemporary ecological and environmental concerns. The course addresses questions of de-colonization, values, and raising consciousness for balanced living including a discussion of efficient energy use, an evaluation of health risks, and concerns for a sustainable community. Topics include: how perceptions of nature have changed across cultures and over time, how media affects the contemporary American experience both within our inner human nature and the natural world, and how we experience ourselves and the world.

**Course Requirements:**

Class participation is mandatory along with working in a group. Groups will discuss readings on a regular basis and select a member of the group to present to the class the highlights of their discussion (this will be further discussed in class). The final paper must be written in essay format and will focus on readings, lectures, or other class material. Your final paper should provide a synthesis based on what you have learned in this course and provide a conclusion for further research. Students will present their final papers individually on the day assigned by the instructor (in alphabetical order by last name). Papers are to be turned in before presenting.

**Grading:**

Required attendance and group report on daily discussion = 30%

Final Paper = 35%

Oral Presentation = 35%

**Required Texts:**

Miller, et al. *Discovering Indigenous Lands: The Doctrine of Discovery in the English Colonies (DOD)*

Scott Basso, *Wisdom Sits In Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*, (WSIP)

Richard Nelson, *Make Prayers to the Raven: A Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*, (MPR)

**Course Lectures and Readings:**

- April 3: Course Introduction  
Reading: DOD Section 1 “The Doctrine of Discovery” Parts A-C
- April 5: The Doctrine of Discovery  
Reading: DOD Section 2 “The Legal Adoption of Discovery in the United States” Parts A - D
- April 10: DOD History in the US  
Reading: DOD Section 3 “The Doctrine of Discovery in United States History” Parts A-E
- April 12: Ancestral Wisdom  
Reading: *Wisdom Sits In Places*: Chapter One
- April 17: Stalking With Stories  
Reading: WSIP: Chapter Two
- April 19: Naming the Landscape  
Reading: WSIP: Chapter Three
- April 24: *Wisdom Sits in Places*  
Reading: WSIP: Chapter Four
- April 26: The Watchful World: Animals and Plants  
Reading: *Make Prayers to the Raven*: Chapter One
- May 1: The Watchful World: Animals and Plants  
Reading: *Make Prayers to the Raven*: Chapter Two
- May 3: People, Animals, and Plants  
Reading: MPR Chapters Three & Four
- May 8: Earth, Animals, and Fish  
Reading: MPR Chapters Five and Six
- May 10: The Bird World  
Reading: MPR Chapter Seven

May 15: The Small Mammals and Predatory Animals  
Reading: MPR Chapter Eight & Nine

May 17: The Large Mammals & Ecological Patterns and Conservation Practices  
Reading: MPR Chapter Ten & Eleven

May 22: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**

May 24: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**

May 29: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**

May 31: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**

June 5: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**

June 7: **Oral Presentations and Final Papers due**