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  
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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 decolonization, 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:

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


**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**