

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

rgamboa@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

FRI, September 24	<u>Course Introduction</u>
MON, September 27	Ella Cara Deloria, Preface, Chapters 1-7 <i>Waterlily</i>
WED, September 29	Ella Cara Deloria, Chapters 8-12 <i>Waterlily</i>
FRI, October 1	Ella Cara Deloria, Chapters 13-end <i>Waterlily</i>

WEEK 2: Survival, Stereotypes, and Identities

MON, October 4	Joy Harjo, "The Psychology of Earth and Sky" in <i>Native Voices</i> : 3-5; Clara Sue Kidwell, "Ethnoastronomy as the key to Human Intellectual Development and Social Organization" in <i>Native Voices</i> : 5-19 Joy Harjo, "There Is No Such Thing as a One-Way Land Bridge" in <i>Native Voices</i> : 243-245
WED, October 6	Glenn Morris, "Vine Deloria, Jr., and the Development of a Decolonizing Critique of Indigenous Peoples and International Relations" in <i>Native Voices</i> IN CLASS FILM – <i>Smoke Signals</i>
FRI, October 8	Sherman Alexie – excerpts from <i>The Lone Ranger and Tonto fistfight in heaven</i> in Reader IN CLASS FILM – <i>Smoke Signals</i>

WEEK 3: Understandings of Power

MON, October 11	Keith Basso, Chapters 1 & 2 (3-70) <i>Wisdom Sits in Places</i>
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 <i>Changing Ones</i> , in Reader IN CLASS FILM – TWO SPIRIT

WEEK 4: Sacred Language and Land

MON, October 18	Keith Basso, Chapters 3 (71-104) <i>Wisdom Sits in Places</i>
WED, October 20	Keith Basso, Chapter 4 (105-152) <i>Wisdom Sits in Places</i>
FRI, October 22	Susan Lobo, "Urban Clan Mothers" from <i>Keeping the Campfires Going</i> , 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 <i>Handbook of Critical and Indigenous Methodologies</i> , 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 Zohl dé Ishtar, "A-Bombs to Star Wars – The Sixty Years War on Marshall

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

Michelene Pesantubbee, “Religious Studies on the Margins: Decolonizing Our Minds” in *Native Voices*: 209-222

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

Vine Deloria Jr., “The Passage of Generations” in *Native Voices*: 318-324

FRI, December 3

IN CLASS FILM – *In The Light of Reverence*

FINAL PAPER DUE: THURSDAY, December 9, 2010