

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

**Professor Inés Talamantez**

**Class: MWF 1:00-1:50**

**Location: Buchanan 1930**

**Office: HSSB 3069**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00-10:00, 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 de-colonization, values, and consciousness raising 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 attendance is required, along with a one page summary of weekly readings due on Mondays. For the midterm you will be required to submit an abstract of your final paper and an annotated bibliography. The final paper that is required must be written in essay format and will focus on the course reading and lectures, you may choose your own topics from the assigned readings. Also the final paper will be presented orally at the end of the course and turned in immediately before presentation.

**Grading:**

The reading summaries, class participation and attendance =25% of your grade  
The midterm, abstract and annotated bibliography = 25% of your grade  
The oral presentation, due with final paper =25% of your grade  
The final paper = 25% of your grade

### Required Texts:

Richard Nelson, *Make Prayers to the Raven: A Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*.  
Oscar Kawagley, *A Yupiaq Worldview: A Pathway to Ecology and Spirit*  
Steven Newcomb, *Pagans in the Promised Land*

### Suggested Texts:

Sarah McFarland Taylor, *Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology*  
Tomas Berry, *The Great Work*

*These texts will help you to focus your final paper. I encourage you to consult these sources in preparation for your final paper.*

### Course Lectures and Readings:

- Mar 28: Course Introduction  
Reading: Chapter One, *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Mar 30: The Watchful World: Animals and Plants  
Reading: Chapter Two, *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 1: People, Animals, and Plants  
Reading: continue Chapter Two, *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 4: Earth, Sky, and Plants  
Reading: Chapters Three and Four, *Make Prayers to the Raven*  
**Summary Due**
- Apr 6: Earth, Animals, and Fish  
Reading: Chapters Five and Six, *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 8: The Bird World  
Reading: Chapter Seven: *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 11: **Catch-up on Reading Day** and Guest Lecturer TBA  
**Summary Due**
- Apr 13: The Small Mammals  
Reading: Chapter Eight: *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 15: Predatory Animals  
Reading: Chapter Nine: *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 18: The Large Mammals  
Reading: Chapter Ten: *Make Prayers to the Raven*  
**Summary Due**
- Apr 20: Ecological Patterns and Conservation Practices  
Reading: Chapter Eleven: *Make Prayers to the Raven*
- Apr 22: Yupiaq Worldview: The Meeting of Old and New  
Reading: Intro and Chapter One: *Yupiaq Worldview*
- Apr 25: Akiak and the Yupiit Nation  
Reading: Chapter Two: *Yupiaq Worldview*  
**Summary Due**

- Apr 27: Yupiaq Science, Technology, and Survival  
Reading: Chapter Three: *Yupiaq Worldview*  
Apr 29: Yupiaq Cultural Adaptation in the Contemporary World  
Reading: Chapter Five: *Yupiaq Worldview*

May 2: **Midterm Due**

Submit Abstract for Final Paper and Annotated Bibliography  
Reading: Introduction and Chapter One, Cognitive Theory:

*Pagans...*

**No Summary Due today**

- May 4: Federal Indian Law and Film Screening  
Reading: Chapter Two: *Pagans...*  
May 6: Conqueror Model  
Reading: Chapter Three: *Pagans...*  
May 9: Colonizing the Promised Land  
Reading: Chapter Four: *Pagans...*  
**Summary Due**  
May 11: The Chosen People and Guest Lecturer TBA  
Reading: Chapter Five: *Pagans...*  
May 13: Christendom  
Reading: Chapter Six: *Pagans...*  
May 16: *Johnson v. M'Intosh*  
Reading: Chapter Seven: *Pagans...*  
**Summary Due**  
May 18: Christian Discovery  
Reading: Chapter Eight: *Pagans...*  
May 20: Process of Negation  
Reading: Chapter Nine: *Pagans...*  
May 23: Christian Nations Theory  
Reading: Chapter Ten: *Pagans...*  
**Summary Due**  
May 25: **Oral Presentations Group 1**

May 27: **Oral Presentations Group 2**

May 30: **Holiday**

Jun 1: **Oral Presentations Group 3**

Jun 3: **Oral Presentations Group 4**  
Last Day of Instruction