

Native American Literatures in English
050.376.01 and 351.376.01
HSB 204
Professor Louise Barnett
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Office Hours: W and TH 1 and by appointment
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Objectives

We will read some of the most significant Native American literature of our time, primarily fiction, with some non-fiction and documentary films. In doing so, we will need to contextualize this body of work in two cultures, Western literary history and Native American oral tradition. We will consider some of the circumstances of the minority community that produces these texts, using the Lakota reservation of Pine Ridge to examine various Native American issues.

Readings

Sherman Alexie, *The Toughest Indian in the World*
Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine: new and expanded edition*
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*
N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Leonard Peltier, *Prison Writings: My Life is my Sun Dance*
Susan Power, *The Grass Dancer*
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
James Welch, *Winter in the Blood, The Indian Lawyer*
Louis Owens, *Bone Game*

Course Requirements

Regular class attendance and participation in discussion are expected. The text for the day must be brought to class. For every text, there will be a brief in-class writing assignment—not a pop quiz but an exercise in analytical reading. There will also be 3 five-page papers and a final exam. **Prolonged absence will make it impossible to receive credit for this course.**

Cell phones must be turned off during class and other disruptions, such as leaving and reentering the classroom once class has started, should be avoided.

Students are expected to know and observe the university's standards of academic integrity in all coursework.

Work must be handed in on time or an extension agreed to by the instructor. ****Missed assignments cannot be handed in during the last week of class.**

376: Native American

Evaluation

Classwork	10%
Paper 1	20
Paper 2	20
Paper 3	25
Exam	25

Tentative Schedule of Assignments

January	22	Introduction
	24	<i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>
	29	<i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>
	31	<i>Love Medicine</i>
February	5	<i>Love Medicine</i>
	7	<i>Love Medicine</i>
	12	<i>Ceremony</i>
	14	<i>Ceremony</i>
	19	<i>Ceremony</i> FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS
	21	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>
	26	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>
	28	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>
March	4	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>
	6	<i>Winter in the Blood</i>
	11	<i>Winter in the Blood</i>
	13	<i>The Indian Lawyer</i>
	18	spring break
	20	spring break
	25	<i>The Indian Lawyer</i>
	27	<i>The Indian Lawyer</i>
April	1	film: <i>Incident at Oglala</i> SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS
	3	<i>Prison Writings</i>
	8	<i>Prison Writings</i>
	10	<i>The Grass Dancer</i>
	15	<i>The Grass Dancer</i>
	17	<i>The Grass Dancer</i>
	22	<i>The Toughest Indian in the World</i>
	24	<i>The Toughest Indian in the World</i>
	29	<i>Bone Game</i>
May	1	<i>Bone Game</i> FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS
	13	Exam, 8-11 a.m.

