

Native American Literatures in English Spring 2009

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TTH 4th, 2:15-3:35, HSB 204

Instructor: Professor Louise Barnett

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Objectives

We will read some of the most significant Native American literature of our time-- primarily fiction, with some poetry and non-fiction. We will need to contextualize this body of work in two cultures, Western literary history and Native American oral tradition. We will also consider some of the circumstances of the minority community that produces these texts, focusing especially on the Pine Ridge reservation.

Required Readings

The following paperbacks have been ordered by the Student Co-op Store and are required reading:

Sherman Alexie, *Ten Little Indians*.

Crow Dog, Mary. *Lakota Woman*.

Least Heat Moon, William. *Blue Highways*.

N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*.

Owens, Louis. *Nightland*.

Leonard Peltier. *Prison Writings*.

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Storyteller*.

James Welch, *The Death of Jim Loney*.

Requirements

1. Regular and on-time attendance. Missing more than nine classes will result in course failure, regardless of the reason for absence. Neither the mid-term nor the final examination can be made up without a valid excuse from a college dean.
2. Participation in class discussion and other classwork. The text under discussion should always be brought to class.
3. Handing in papers on time.
4. Knowing and observing the university's standards of academic integrity in all coursework.

***Cell phones must be turned off in class.**

Evaluation

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

Tentative Schedule of Readings

January	20	Introduction
	22, 27, 29	<i>Storyteller</i>
February	3, 5, 10	<i>Ten Little Indians</i>
	12	First 5 page Paper due ; in-class film
	17, 19, 24	<i>Blue Highways</i>
	26 & March 3	<i>The Death of Jim Loney</i>
March	5	Exam 1
	10, 12	<i>House Made of Dawn</i>
	24, 26	<i>Lakota Woman</i>
	31 + April 7	<i>Prison Writings</i>
April	9	essay on Pine Ridge
	14	film
	16, 21	<i>Nightland</i>
	23, 28, 30	poetry

Exam 2 during final exam period