

1-2014

NASX 304E.02: Native American Beliefs and Philosophy

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NAS/RELS 304-02: Native American Beliefs and Philosophy
Dr. Davies
TR 9:40-11:00, NAC 103

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-2:30

Course Description: This course discusses ways selected American Indian communities have viewed their roles in the world around them, with special emphasis on spirituality and ethics. It also explores the ways that Native world views have persevered and/or changed over time in response to both intertribal and non-Indian influences, and also political and legal issues related to religious freedoms and sacred sites.

Course Objectives: Students should leave the course with the ability to:

1. see commonalities among various American Indian world views, but also the great diversity and complexity of these views.
2. discuss how Native world views and spiritual ways have responded to change.
3. discuss key instances of past and contemporary legal and political conflict with Native sacred sites, objects, culture and ceremonies.
4. interpret Native American philosophical and spiritual texts (both written and oral) using their own critical thinking skills, and in reference to knowledge gained in this course

Required Readings:

Basil Johnston. *The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway*

Paul G. Zolbrod. *Diné bahane': The Navajo Creation Story*

Jay C. Fikes. *Reuben Snake, Your Humble Serpent: Indian Visionary and Activist*

Readings from ERES (electronic and traditional reserve through the Library)

Course Requirements: The course grade is based on the following requirements (It cannot be taken Pass/No Pass)

First Exam (25 points)

Second Exam (25 points)

Final Exam (25 points)

Combined total of Participation and reading quizzes (25 points total)

=100 points total

Based on your total points, your course grade will be determined as follows: 92 and up=A; 90-91=A-; 88-89=B+; 82-87=B; 80-81=B-; 78-79=C+; 72-77=C; 70-71=C-; 68-69=D+; 62-67=D; 60-61=D-; 59 and below=F

Examinations: Each exam will cover material from the preceding third of the course, including both readings and lecture. They are composed of short answer and essay questions. Please bring a **blue book** from the bookstore for each test.

Reading Quizzes: There will be multiple in-class and/or take-home quizzes (there will be a maximum of five, but there may be fewer) based on course readings throughout the semester. Some of these will be in-class quizzes that will take up a portion of a class period and will be announced at least one class prior. Others may be take-home quizzes that will be completed outside of class and turned in on a specified day. The grade on the in-class quizzes is based on content alone while grades on the take-home versions will be based on content and writing style. Each quiz will be worth a few points and, taken together, will add up to this portion of the course grade.

Participation: Consistent attendance, participation in class discussions, participation in smaller group discussions, and signs of extra effort (e.g. improvement over time, discussing class issues with the professor, helping others in the class etc.) make up this portion of the grade.

Make-ups: Exams and Quizzes must be taken/turned in on the specified date. If it is necessary (for medical or other unavoidable reasons) to take an exam or quiz at another time, arrangements must be made with the professor ahead of time (except in documented cases of medical emergencies that prevent you from getting in touch with me beforehand). I *may* allow make-ups after-the-fact providing that you contact me as soon as possible after missing an exam or quiz with an excuse that I approve.

Calendar: Have the assigned readings completed for the dates indicated. Readings marked as “ERES” are available on electronic reserve through the Mansfield library--the ERES password for the class is “davies”.

Week 1:

1/28 Introduction

1/30 read the two chapters from Schrempf from ERES (“Chapter 2: Distributed Power” and “Chapter 4: Four American Indian Origin Stories”)

Week 2:

2/4 read the two chapters from McCleary from ERES (“Chapter 1: Our Side” and “Chapter 2: The Crow People and the Stars”); also read the chapter from Rodney Frey from ERES (“Chapter 4: Medicine”)

2/6 read *The Manitous* preface, introduction, and chaps. 1-5

Week 3:

2/11 read *The Manitous* chaps. 6-8; also read Johnston chapter from ERES (“The Vision Quest”)

2/13 read *The Manitous* chap. 9; also Johnston chapter from ERES (“The War Path”)

Week 4:

2/18 finish reading *The Manitous*

2/20 **Exam #1**

Week 5:

2/25 read *Diné bahane* ' introduction and pages 35-51

2/27 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 51-72

Week 6:

3/4 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 72-136

3/6 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 136-168

Week 7:

3/11 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 169-220

3/13 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 221-252

Week 8:

3/18 read *Diné bahane* ' pages 252-299

3/20 finish reading *Diné bahane* '

Week 9:

3/25 read from ERES "Spanish Missions, Cultural Conflict and the Pueblo Revolt of 1680" by Bowden (it is listed under Hurtado and Iverson eds./stop reading when you get to the article by Morrison)

3/27 **Exam #2**

Week 10:

Spring Break

Week 11:

4/8 read the article by Kenneth M. Morrison on "Montagnais Missionization in Early New France" from ERES (it is included in the same document as the reading by Bowden in the work listed under Hurtado and Iverson. It begins on page 104 of that document); also read selections from *The Jesuit Relations* from ERES (they are listed as Paul Le June "Journal of a Winter Hunt")

4/10 no reading assignment

Week 12:

4/15 begin reading *Reuben Snake*

4/17 continue reading *Reuben Snake*

Week 13:

4/22 read the chapter by Raymond Demallie Jr. from ERES ("Chapter 15: The Lakota Ghost Dance"); also continue reading *Reuben Snake*

4/24 continue reading *Reuben Snake*

Week 14:

4/29 continue reading *Reuben Snake*

5/1 finish reading *Reuben Snake*

Week 15:

5/6 no reading assignment

5/8 no reading assignment

Final 8:00-10:00 Thursday, May 15th in our regular room