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NASX 105H.50: Introduction to Native American Studies

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NASX 105-50: Introduction to Native American Studies

Online

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Davies

Online

Email: wade.davies@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: through Zoom weekly and by appointment

Course Description

This course is a general overview of traditional and modern Native American cultures with a cross-disciplinary approach. Topics covered include Native oral traditions, relations with nature, social structures, beliefs and practices, history, art, literature, sports, policy, and law. Students should acquire a better understanding of commonalities and differences among Native peoples, key government policies and historic events affecting them, and some of the modern issues that are of great concern to Native communities and individuals. Students should also gain a better understanding of the richness of Native cultures, both in the past and present. The course deals with communities from throughout the modern United States.

Learning Outcomes

Students should leave the course with the ability to:

1. discuss commonalities and differences among Native American peoples both in the past and present; as well as to discuss key government policies and historic events affecting them
2. discuss the diverse ways Native American communities have structured their community lives in the past and present and how they have responded to modern ecological, economic, social, and legal issues that are of great concern to them
3. discuss the rights and responsibilities of their contemporary U.S. citizenship and, in many cases as members of sovereign tribal communities.
4. offer concrete examples of ways Native communities have responded to adversity in the past and present, and how they have suffered losses while still retaining their identities, cultural ways, and sovereignty
5. demonstrate an awareness of the multi-disciplinary nature of Native American Studies and the ability to discuss some key concepts from multiple of these disciplines

And more generally to:

6. demonstrate an understanding of the diverse ways humans structure their social, political, and cultural lives
7. interpret human activities, ideas, and institutions with reference to diverse cultural, historical and geo-political perspectives and physical environments.
8. recognize the complexities of inter-cultural and international communications and collaborative endeavors, and relate this to the complex challenges of the 21st century
9. Critically analyze and evaluate primary sources within their respective historical contexts.
10. Synthesize ideas and information in order to understand the problems, causes, and consequences of historical developments and events.

Required Readings

D'Arcy McNickle. *The Surrounded*

Additional required readings are book chapters, websites, and documents found on the course Moodle website

Course Requirements

The course grade is based on the following requirements (please note that Native American Studies does not allow classes to be taken Credit/No Credit)

Three Exams (80 points total; Exams 1 and 2 are 25 points each; Final is 30 points)

Assignments (15 points)

Participation (5 points)

=100 points total

The final grade is determined as a percentage based on the total points earned out of a possible 100.

Assignment Guidelines and Policies

Each exam will cover material from the preceding third of the course, including readings, films, and lecture. Exams will include multiple choice and short essay questions.

Exams must be taken on the day, and submitted by the deadline time, set on the Moodle site. If it is necessary (for a medical, family, or other unavoidable reasons) to miss an exam, arrangements **must be approved** by the professor ahead of time (except in documented cases of medical emergencies that prevent you from getting in touch with me until after the exam, in which case you must contact me within 24 hours after the deadline). If you miss an exam for any other reason, I *may* approve a make-up exam to be taken within 24 hours of the original deadline at a substantial -4 point penalty (equivalent to -20%).

Late assignments (not including exams) can be submitted within **one week** after the deadline at a -2 point penalty (equivalent to -40%). **No late assignments will be accepted that are more than one week late.**

The participation portion of your score is not as large as it would be in an in-person course, but it is nevertheless important. The participation points will be assigned at the end of the semester based in part on how consistent you've been about submitting your assignments on time, in complete form, and how well these assignments and exams reflect your careful reading of assigned Moodle readings (and the novel). Consistently strong performance on exams or showing improvement on your exams through the course of the semester will also contribute to a higher participation score. Although I don't require you to participate in a particular Zoom discussion, taking part at least occasionally and asking questions will also contribute positively to your participation score. If you can't make the Zoom times for the optional group discussions, you can also help your participation score by reviewing course material with me in private Zoom meetings.

Calendar

Please have the assigned readings, assignments, and exams completed by the dates indicated on the Moodle weekly course pages. All of the readings are found on the Moodle website except for the novel *The Surrounded*.

Student Conduct Code

[*click here for link](#)

Disability modifications

[*click here for Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact DSS in the Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.