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### NASX 235X.01: Oral and Written Traditions of Native Americans

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# Oral & Written Traditions

NASX 235X.01-34406-Spring 2022

**Instructor: Andrea A. Fitzpatrick**

**email: [andreaafitzpatrick7@gmail.com](mailto:andreaafitzpatrick7@gmail.com)**

*This class will all take place on Campus*

*Outside of Moodle, **the best way to get in touch with me is through email.***

*If you have questions about anything at all, don't hesitate to email me. I recommend checking your UM email at least once a day. If you need assistance with your essay, email me your current draft with specific questions.*

## Course Description

Within Native American cultures, oral and literary traditions are expressed in many forms: jokes, warning tales, allegories, chants, curses, songs, poems, stories, novels, autobiographies and mythic accounts. We will read from a variety of selected literary works that is by no means all-inclusive of all traditions. In terms of genre, we will also read both historical and more contemporary pieces and pieces that are cyclical in nature and apply to past, present, and future. Students will have the opportunity to write at least four essays of varying length, as well as produce other shorter pieces of writing. We will explore oral traditions and talk about what it is and is not; for example, oral tradition is not about mere rote memorization or unchanging content. We will look at literary expression and how colonization and cultural survivance among other key themes play a role in oral and written traditions.

## Required Books

***The Stars We Know*** by Timothy P. McCleary

***Two Old Women*** by Velma Wallis

***The Way to Rainy Mountain*** by N. Scott Momaday

Additional **documents** will be supplied as required reading as well.

## Course Learning Goals

- ❖ To develop an understanding of and appreciation for types of Native American oral and written literatures
- ❖ To demonstrate an ability to identify some tribally-specific beliefs and practices as reflected in our literature
- ❖ To compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- ❖ Analyze works of art with respect to structure and significance within literary and artistic traditions.
- ❖ Develop coherent arguments that critique these works from a variety of approaches, such as historical, aesthetic, cultural, psychological, political, and philosophical.
- ❖ To use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- ❖ To revise written work based on constructive feedback
- ❖ To find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- ❖ To begin to use discipline-based writing conventions, such as MLA style
- ❖ To demonstrate appropriate English language usage

## Course Assignments & Requirements

**Due dates for assignments will be announced on Moodle. Also see the class schedule.**

**Essay #1: Personal Written Oral History (4-5 pages) 100 points**

**Essay #2: *The Stars We Know* (4-5 pages) 100 points**

**Essay #3: *Two Old Women* (5 Paragraph Essay) 40 points**

**Essay #4: *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, Poetry, & Oratory (4-5 pages) 100**

**points Forum Post: 1<sup>st</sup> Week Introduction Assignment 10 points**

**11 Quizzes: (10 pts each) = 110 points**

**7 Poetry Responses:** Short writing assignments addressing prompts that pertain to assigned poetry almost every week. Topics in these Indigenous / Native American stereotypes, spirituality, tribe specific information, and oral stories. (20 pts each) = **140 points**

~~ **600 TOTAL POINTS** ~~

(Grading breakdown on page 3)

All essays will be evaluated on *both* grammatically correct, functional writing and *content*. *I am looking for insightful understandings of the subject matter that are clearly articulated.* **All papers must be typed, 1-inch margins, 12 font Times New Roman or Arial, double-spaced and heading. Heading should include: Name, NASX 235X, Assignment Name, number, and Date.** Throughout the term, we will explore the principles of good writing through a variety of means. I will provide writing feedback on each essay when I grade them. Also, please don't forget about the services offered at the UM Writing Center (<http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/>).

**Extra credit assignments:** From time to time, students may be offered extra-credit.

### Are There Other Expectations?

Please keep in touch with me if you are having difficulties during the semester. Late work is subject to a grade penalty of up to one letter grade per week on the particular assignment.

It is always best to turn something in rather than not. Keep in good communication about your challenges and struggles.

If you have **DSS accommodations** of which I should be aware, please do not hesitate to speak with me; let me know early on what needs you may have and what I can do to help you. If you are registered with Disability Student Services, [dss@umontana.edu](mailto:dss@umontana.edu), please let me know that at the beginning of the term, so that I can assist you in whatever ways possible to ensure your success in the course. I'm here to help you learn.

### Grading

Grading will be based on how many points you earn during the semester, which is broken down as follows: **A = 600-540 pts // B = 539-480 pts // C = 479-420 pts // D = 419-360 pts // F = 359-0 pts**

**Please note:** *The Native American Studies department does not allow courses to be offered on a pass/no pass basis.*

### For important calendar dates:

Please see the Cyberbear website (<http://cyberbear.umt.edu/>) for important dates such as: last day to add/drop with refund on Cyberbear; last day to drop without refund by drop/add form; last day to withdraw. Incompletes are rarely available. I discourage Incompletes, because most students do not finish them and their grade turns to F.

An Incomplete (I) is generally granted for unforeseen medical, personal, or family emergencies that interfere with the end of the semester, so plan your time carefully and keep up with the work as you go.

### A word about plagiarism:

Please know that plagiarism (do not do it) is defined as using another's words or ideas (outside of common knowledge) directly or indirectly without citing them. It is appalling, but some students waste their own education and my time by plagiarizing off the Internet. If they can find it online, so can I, and academic deception will not be tolerated. Consequences of plagiarism can lead to your being expelled from the University. Please take this warning seriously. Do not plagiarize. The University's official warning can be found on pg. 22 of the Catalog, which refers you to the Student Conduct Code (Academic Conduct), available on the web: <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

For more information on plagiarism, go to Plagiarism Online Handout: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html).

### UPWA Writing Sample Submission (on Moodle):

“Intermediate Writing courses are required to have students participate in the University-wide Program level Writing Assessment (UPWA). The goal of the UPWA is to study the effectiveness of the University's writing program. We are not re-grading or evaluating individual students' or faculty performance. Rather, this assessment gathers data to show aggregate areas of strength in students' writing, areas for improvement, and areas to support faculty in writing instruction. Student writing samples from the Intermediate Writing courses provide authentic data about student writing proficiency.” Details for this will be announced in class later in the semester.

This syllabus is subject to changes, which will be announced in class. Don't forget to check your email and Moodle regularly and, please, show up to class this is not a class you can get skating in.