

Fall 9-1-2000

NAS 202L.01: Oral and Written Traditions of Native Americans

Richard A. Sattler

University of Montana - Missoula, richard.sattler@umontana.edu

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NAS 202: ORAL AND WRITTEN TRADITIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS
Fall 2000

Tue/Thur * 12:40-2:00am * Liberal Arts 138

INSTRUCTOR: Richard A. Sattler
PHONE: 243-5833
E-MAIL: rsattler@selway.umt.edu

OFFICE: NAS Office/Rm 205
OFFICE HOURS: M/T 10:00-11:00am
W/R 2:00-3:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an in-depth multifaceted analysis of the rich oral traditions of selected Native American tribes. The course also will examine Native American autobiographies. Finally, the course will cover writings by early Native American authors, such as Pauline Johnson, D'Arcy McNickle, and Ella Deloria.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an appreciation for Native American oral and written literary traditions.
2. To identify and describe the different genres of American Indian oral narratives and their cultural functions.
3. To promote comprehension of the underlying culturally specific philosophies and ideas inherent in the oral and written traditions of American Indians.
4. To develop a familiarity with the names of major Indian literary sources and works studied in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course is designed to include both lecture and discussion. All students are expected to read and evaluate all assigned readings and to be ready to discuss them on the assigned date. Your active and informed participation enriches the experience for everyone.

Course Evaluation:

Examinations: There will be two (2) exams: a mid-term and a final. Both exams will cover all lectures, discussions, films and reading assignments up to that point in the course. Each exam will consist of short answer questions, identifications, and an essay question.

Discussion: The class will be divided into small discussion groups and both general and group discussion questions/topics will be handed out each week. A portion of class time each week will be set aside for both small group and whole class discussion. All students are expected to read all assigned materials and generally be ready to discuss them in class. Students must also specifically be ready to discuss the general discussion questions and those assigned to their group.

Writing Assignments: There will also be two writing assignments. The first assignment, a **personal autobiographical essay**, must include your personal views of Native Americans and how such

views or attitudes were shaped. The first essay will be due in class on Thursday, **Oct 5**. It will be evaluated and returned with comments and/or suggestions for improvement. The draft version will count for 1/3 of the grade for the assignment. A revised version is due in class on Thursday, **Nov. 9**. The revised version will count for 2/3 of the grade for this assignment.

The second writing assignment, a **research paper**, will discuss, explain, interpret, and/or analyze a character, theme, cultural aspect, or historical event contained in a work on the required reading list. It is necessary to research the cultural background of the tribe/tradition associated with your topic. You must utilize a minimum of three references other than course materials and appropriately cite such information. This paper is due in class on Tuesday, **Dec 12**.

Format: The personal essay will be four pages in length. The research paper will be seven pages long. All papers must be in a scholarly format, **in a normal size font**, double-spaced, with 1" margins all around, on one side of the page, and prepared on a computer or word processor.. Be sure to put your name and the class on the front of the paper and to **staple** all pages together. Consult one of the standard, published style guides (Turabian, MLA, Etc.) for other aspects of style and usage. Title page(s), endnote page(s) if used, and bibliography are in addition to the page requirement.. You must cite the sources of all ideas and information which are not your own with notes. All direct use of someone else's words must be inside quotation marks, or indented for longer quotes, and appropriately cited. When you paraphrase someone else's work or ideas, you must also properly attribute the source. Any normally accepted citation style and either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable, but notes should minimally include the name(s) of the author(s), the date of publication, and the page numbers where the quoted or cited material appears. Up to one letter grade may be deducted for poor style, grammar, and usage. One letter grade will be dropped for no bibliography and an additional letter grade may be dropped for improper citation. A failure to include any notes and citations will result in a grade of "0" for the paper.

Check your papers for the following points:

1. Thesis is stated in one sentence at the end of the first paragraph.
2. The thesis is clearly evident throughout the paper.
3. Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence and there are transitional tags between paragraphs.
4. Evidence/quotes are used to illustrate/butress your argument and are clearly linked to it.
5. Vary the sentence structure, but do not use passive voice or "There is/It is".
6. State your points as briefly and clearly as possible, cutting all excess words/phrases.
7. No sentence can be misread and there are no vague, abstract, or unclear terms, phrases, or sentences.
8. All citations are complete.

Grading: The essay and research paper will each count for 1/5 of the student's grade. This essay grade will constitute the weighted average of the original and the revised version grades. Each test will also count for 1/5 of the grade. Discussion will account for the final 1/5 of the student grade.

Late Work & Make-Ups: All work should be turned in on the dates listed. One letter grade will be dropped for late assignments. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of **unavoidable** absences. All work must be turned in by the scheduled date of the final exam and no work will be accepted after that date, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Academic Honesty: The University of Montana expects its students to be academically honest, particularly in regard to plagiarism. "Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own." Both copyright laws and University policies are rigid as concerns plagiarism. Consult the

“Academic Policies and Procedures” section of the current University catalog for details regarding penalties for plagiarism.

Required Readings:

Deloria, Ella. *Waterlily*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

Johnson, E. Pauline. *The Moccasin Maker*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

La Flesche, Francis. *The Middle Five: Indian Schoolboys of the Omaha Tribe*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963.

Lurie, Nancy Oestreich. *Mountain Wolf Woman, Sister of Crashing Thunder: The Autobiography of a Winnebago Indian*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1961.

McNickle, D'Arcy. *The Surrounded*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1936.

Neihardt, John G., and Black Elk. *Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1972.

ERes (Electronic Reserve) Documents: available at the library or on-line at eres.lib.umt.edu.

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

READINGS: ERes: “Week 1: Introduction.”

WEEK 2 IN THE BEGINNING: CREATION STORIES

READINGS: ERes: “Week 2 In The Beginning: Creation Stories”.

Sep 12 - **Film:** “Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World”

WEEK 3 THE ORIGINS OF THINGS

READINGS: ERes: “Week 3: The Origins of Things.”

WEEK 4 TRANSFORMERS: HEROES & TRICKSTERS

READINGS: ERes: “Week 4: Transformers.”

Sep 25 **LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP (DIAL BEAR)**

Sep 26 - **Film:** “Iisaw: Hopi Coyote Stories”

WEEK 5 TELLING OUR LIVES

READINGS: LaFlesche, *Middle Five*

Oct 5 **Essay Draft Due**

WEEK 6 TELLING OUR LIVES

READINGS: LaFlesche, *Middle Five*

Lurie, *Mountain Wolf Woman*.

WEEK 7 TELLING OUR LIVES

READINGS: Lurie, *Mountain Wolf Woman*.

Oct 16 **LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP**

NAS 202: ORAL & WRITTEN TRADITIONS

WEEK 8 TELLING OUR LIVES

READINGS: *Black Elk*

Oct 24 - Film: "Ghost Dance"

Oct 26

MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 9 TELLING OUR LIVES

READINGS: *Black Elk*

WEEK 10 THE IMAGINED LIFE

READINGS: Deloria, *Waterlily*.

Nov. 7

ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

Nov. 9

Essay Due

WEEK 11 THE IMAGINED LIFE

READINGS: Deloria, *Waterlily*.

Nov 28 - Film: ""

WEEK 12 ACTS OF IMAGINATION: SHORT FICTION

READINGS: Johnson, *Moccasin Maker*

Nov 22-26

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 13 ACTS OF IMAGINATION: SHORT FICTION

READINGS: Johnson, *Moccasin Maker*

Nov 28 - Film: "Running on the Edge of the Rainbow"

WEEK 14 ACTS OF IMAGINATION: NOVELS

READINGS: McNickle, *The Surrounded*.

Dec 5 - Film: "Seasons of the Salish"

Dec 8

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

WEEK 15 ACTS OF IMAGINATION: NOVELS

READINGS: McNickle, *The Surrounded*.

Dec 12

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Dec 18 (Mon) - 3:20pm

FINAL EXAM