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### ENLT 495.01: Native American Poetry

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**ENLT 495.01 – NATIVE AMERICAN POETRY  
SYLLABUS – FALL 2001**

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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/ 10:30-12pm, and other times by appointment. Please note: be sure to confirm a time with me even during posted office hours. Otherwise I might be with another student or at the copy machine.

**DESCRIPTION:** This is an in-depth introduction to American Indian poetry. We read toward understanding links and gaps between oral and written, musical and literary, traditional and contemporary, and Native and Euramerican forms. We look at poems from a variety of regional, tribal, and intertribal contexts, with emphasis on contemporary Native writers. We trace the ways that their aesthetics emerge in relation to historical, cultural, and individual dimensions, and we explore questions of race, ethnicity, class, and gender as they merge with questions of authenticity, identity, and community. Prior course work in Native American Studies and in literary theory is expected, but enrollment is open. (Cross-listed with Women's Studies.)

**REQUIREMENTS:** The following list of activities tries to quantify your expected work. Frankly, no one can "quantify the quality" of your writing or discussion. Grading in arts and humanities courses inevitably entails subjective criteria. Thus more dialogue between student and faculty can become a productive approach to the problem of grading humanities performance. I hope you come to feel that I am open for you to get to know me both in and out of the classroom. Please come see me. Classes will be a combination of lectures, group discussions, and review. On take-home essay exams, both form and content will be graded. Semester grades are based on a combination of written work, discussion, discussion questions, and attendance, with the written work carrying the most weight.

1. Participation in discussion of daily readings in both small groups and the full class. The course is designed for your input. NB: "participation" can be both vocal and silent, both speaking and listening, but not all of one or the other. This requirement assumes no more than three absences. Discussion is one of the best ways to learn, and the class can hardly flow without you there. This is so crucial to the course that I'll take a few more lines here to explain: Everyone's idea is important. When you speak, try to give your idea away to the group. You don't need to defend it once it's out there. And equally, when you listen, give each speaker respect. Humor helps too. We don't need everyone to agree, but perhaps we can build a community in the classroom.
2. Rotating discussion question handouts by groups. Take note of these logistics. NB: Three teams will generate discussion questions, DQ1, DQ2, DQ3. (I'll give you coaching on writing discussion questions.) On the semester schedule you will find the revolving dates for which each team must make questions on the readings. Each individual is responsible for at least three questions. Individuals or teams will make multiple copies of handouts of discussion questions for the entire class. That means finishing the reading and preparing the DQs and the handout well before our class.
2. For undergrads and grads: Mid-term and final take-home essay exams.
3. Peer editing study groups of 3 students will meet outside of class on each of the two exams and the research paper.
4. For undergrads: 8- to 10-page res. paper: working thesis due 11/6; paper due 12/17, Monday of finals week
5. For grads: 15- to 20-page research paper: working thesis due 11/6; paper due 12/17, Monday of finals week
6. Notice of an absence should be given in advance when we can arrange for your make-up work. More than three absences can drop the final grade.

**REQUIRED READINGS (+ handouts & reserve materials):**

FacPac – On Mansfield Reserve and on ERes via "ENLT 495.01" or "Moore"  
Alexie, Sherman. *This Business of Fancydancing*. Hanging Loose Press.  
Evers, Larry & Felipe Molina, eds. *Yaqui Deer Songs – Maso Bwikam*. Arizona UP.  
Harjo, Joy. *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*. Norton.  
Harjo & Bird, eds. *Reinventing the Enemy's Language*. Norton.  
Louis, Adrian. *Ceremonies of the Damned*. Nevada UP.  
Ortiz, Simon. *After and Before the Lightning*. Arizona UP.  
Tapahonso, Lucy. *Saanii Dahataal -- The Women are Singing*. Arizona UP.  
Welch, James. *Riding the Earthboy 40*. Confluence Press.  
Young Bear, Ray A. *The Invisible Musician*. Holy Cow! Press.

**ENLT 495.01 – NATIVE AMERICAN POETRY  
SEMESTER SCHEDULE – SPRING 2001, T/TH**

**Week 1**

- 9/4 -- Introductions; Two by Young Bear & Dauenhauer  
9/6 -- *Reinventing (I)* pp. 19-103 “Introduction” & poetry selections; FacPac: Allen, p. 76; **DQ1**

**Week 2**

- 9/11 -- *Reinventing* continued  
9/13 -- Tapahonso; FacPac: Witherspoon, p. 111; **DQ2**

**Week 3**

- 9/18 -- Tapahonso continued  
9/20 -- Tapahonso continued; FacPac: Cook-Lynn, p. 205

**Week 4**

- 9/25 -- Welch; **DQ3**  
9/27 -- Welch continued; FacPac: S. Ortiz, p. 216

**Week 5**

- 10/2 -- *Reinventing (II)* pp. 169-246 (poetry selections); **DQ1**  
10/4 -- *Reinventing* continued

**Week 6**

- 10/9 -- Oral Traditions, FacPac, TBA; FacPac: Ruoff, p. 87; **DQ2**  
10/11 -- Oral Traditions continued

**Week 7**

- 10/16 -- Evers & Molina; **DQ3**  
10/18 -- E & M continued; **Midterm take-home essay exam handed out.** Peer editing study groups (of 3) meet outside of class.

**Week 8**

- 10/23 -- *Reinventing (III)* pp. 289-395 (poetry sections); **DQ1**  
10/25 -- *Reinventing* continued; FacPac: S. Ortiz, p. 327; Peer editing study groups (of 3) meet outside of class.  
10/26 -- No class Friday. **Midterm exam due in my mailbox, LA133.**

**Week 9**

- 10/30 -- Harjo; *Reinventing* pp. 54-61; **DQ2**  
11/1 -- Harjo continued

**Week 10**

- 11/6 -- Louis; **DQ3**; **Working thesis for research paper due.**  
11/8 -- Louis continued

**Week 11**

- 11/13 -- Ortiz; **DQ1**  
11/15 -- Ortiz continued. (NB: 11/12 Monday Veterans Day Holiday)

**Week 12**

- 11/20 -- *Reinventing (IV)* pp. 467-557 (poetry selections); **DQ2**  
11/22 -- *Reinventing* continued; FacPac: Roemer, p. 332

**Week 13**

11/27 -- Alexie; **DQ3**. (Come talk to me about your research paper.)

11/29 -- Alexie cont. Thanksgiving  
Vacation (begins Wednesday 11/21).

**Week 14**

12/4 -- Young Bear; FacPac: Ruppert, p. 248; **DQ1**; **Final handed out**. Peer editing study groups (of 3) meet outside of class.

12/6 -- Young Bear continued

**Week 15**

12/11 -- Review. Peer editing study groups (of 3) meet outside of class.

12/13 -- Review; **Final Exam due in my mailbox, LA133**.

**Finals Week**

12/17, Monday No class. **Research paper due in my mailbox, LA 133**.