

ENGL 624
American Indian Literature
Spring 2006

Professor Maddox
415 New North
maddoxl@georgetown.edu
Office hours: M 3-4; W 3-5
and by appointment

Texts:

James Welch (Blackfeet), *Fools Crow*
Louise Erdrich (Chippewa), *Tracks*
Scott Momaday (Kiowa), *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Darcy McNickle (Salish), *The Surrounded*
Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo), *Ceremony*
Joy Harjo (Muscogee), *A Map to the Next World*
Greg Sarris (Miwok), *Grand Avenue*
Craig Womack (Creek), *Drowning in Fire*

Schedule:

W 1/11 Introduction

M 1/16 holiday

M 1/23 Welch, *Fools Crow*; Richard White, "Using the Past"; Andrea Optiz, "James Welch's *Fools Crow* and the Imagination of Precolonial Space"

M 1/30 *Fools Crow*; Julie Cruikshank, "Claiming Legitimacy: Prophecy Narratives From Northern Aboriginal Women"; Peter Nabokov, "Futures of Indian Pasts: Prophecy and History"

M 2/6 Erdrich, *Tracks*; Gerald Vizenor, "The Ruins of Representation: Shadow Survivance and the Literature of Dominance," *American Indian Quarterly* 17 (1993), no. 1, 7-30.

M 2/13 Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; Nabokov, "Anchoring the Past in Place: Geography and History"

M 2/20 holiday

M 2/27 McNickle, *The Surrounded*; Sean Teuton, "Placing the Ancestors: Postmodernism, 'Realism,' and American Indian Identity in James Welch's *Winter in the Blood*," *American Indian Quarterly* 25, no. 4 (2002), 626-650.

M 3/6 spring break

M 3/13 Silko, *Ceremony* Paper due

M 3/20 *Ceremony*; Elaine Jahner, "An Act of Attention: Event Structure in *Ceremony*," *American Indian Quarterly* 5, no. 1 (1979), 37-46.

M 3/27 Harjo, *A Map to the Next World*; Craig Womack, review of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, *Anti-Indianism in Modern America*, *American Indian Quarterly* 28, nos. 1 and 2 (2004), 130-141.

M 4/3 *A Map to the Next World*; Sarris, *Grand Avenue*

M 4/10 *Grand Avenue*; research project due

M 4/17 Easter break

M 4/24 Womack, *Drowning in Fire*; selections from Will Roscoe, *Changing Ones*

M 5/1 *Drowning in Fire*; Michelle Henry, "Canonizing Craig Womack: Finding Native Literature's Place in Indian Country," *American Indian Quarterly* 28, nos. 1 and 2 (2004) 30-51.

Writing assignments:

Blackboard postings. Everyone is responsible for providing at least eight brief written responses to the readings, on texts of your choosing, to be posted to the Blackboard website. These responses should be approximately 500 words (one single-spaced page); they should be posted before class time on the day we are discussing the text to which you are responding. You are strongly encouraged to read your colleagues' postings regularly.

Critical essays. A five-page essay is due on March 13. A ten- to twelve-page essay is due on May 8. The longer essay should

incorporate, and engage with, at least one secondary source (from those on our reading list or from sources you locate yourself). You are encouraged to consult with me about your plans for both essays.

Research project. For this project, you should choose a non-literary topic that you would be interested in researching. You might choose a person from Native history, a historical event (Wounded Knee massacre, Navajo Long Walk, occupation of Wounded Knee or Alcatraz, opening of the National Museum of the American Indian), a significant policy (relocation policy, termination policy, Indian Reorganization Act), a group or movement (WWII code talkers, American Indian Movement), or some other topic of your choosing. You do not have to write a research paper; instead, you will submit (1) an annotated bibliography of at least six items (no more than three should be websites) that provide useful information on your topic and (2) a two- to three-page synopsis of the paper you could write on your topic. Each annotation should consist of a full paragraph indicating the content of the source and commenting briefly on its usefulness for your project. You should have chosen your topic by March 20; the completed project is due on April 10. Please feel free to discuss with me your options for this project at any time.