

**English 418: American Indian Poetry**  
**Spring 2006**  
**Tues. 7-9:30**

**Janet McAdams**  
**Office: 206 Lawrence**  
**Hours: MW 4-5:30**

### **Texts**

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poetry

Kimberly Blaeser, *Absentee Indians & Other Poems*  
Joy Harjo, *How We Became Human*  
Linda Hogan, *The Book of Medicines*  
Simon Ortiz, *From Sand Creek*  
Tiffany Midge, *Guiding the Stars to Their Campfire, Driving the Salmon to Their Beds*  
Carter Revard, *How the Songs Came Down: New and Selected Poems*

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film

Sherman Alexie, *The Business of Fancydancing*

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criticism

Dean Rader and Janice Gould, *Speak to Me Words: Essays on Contemporary American Indian Poetry* (abbreviated STMW on course outline)

Additional critical, historical, and personal essays photocopied or on reserve

### **Requirements**

Attendance and active participation in class discussion 10%\*

Formal presentation 20%

Two short essays (1200-1500 words each) 20% each, due 2/21 & 4/4

One critical paper (2500-3000 words) 30%, due 5/5

(\*or electronic discussion if needed)

Note: Late assignments are marked down 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

### **Course Outline**

Note: This schedule is tentative and will be adjusted according to the needs and interests of the class.

1/23- Introduction to course.

1/24- Linda Hogan, "History of Red" from *The Book of Medicines*; Rader & Gould, *Introduction to Speak to Me Words* (online at <http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/books/bid1508.htm>)  
Blaeser, "Native Literature: Seeking a Critical Center" (handout)

1/31- Hogan, *Book of Medicines*

2/7- Hogan, *Book of Medicines* and *Dwellings* (selections, on reserve or photocopied);

Gould, "Poems as Maps" STMW (presentation)

Simon Ortiz, *From Sand Creek*

2/14- Ortiz . cont.

Dean Rader, "The Epic Lyric" in STMW (presentation)

Eric Gary Anderson, "Situating American Indian Poetry" in STMW (presentation)

2/21- Joy Harjo, *How We Became Human*

Adrienne Rich, from *What Is Found There* (presentation)

Short Essay Due

2/28- Harjo, cont.

Chadwick Allen, Introduction to *Blood Narrative* (presentation)

Craig Womack, from *Red on Red* (presentation)

3/7-Harjo, cont.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, from *Why I Can't Read Wallace Stegner* (presentation)

Sherman Alexie, selections

SPRING BREAK

3/21- *The Business of Fancydancing* (film)

3/28- Discuss film

Jimmie Durham, "Cowboys and . . ." from *The State of Native America* (presentation)

Carter Revard, *How The Songs Came Down*

4/4- Revard, cont.  
Revard, "Herbs of Healing" in STMW (presentation)  
Short Essay Due

4/11- Revard, cont.  
McAdams, "Carter Revard's Angled Mirrors" in STMW

4/18- Kimberly Blaeser, *Absentee Indians*  
Jace Weaver, Introduction to *That the People Might Live* (presentation)

4/25- Blaeser, cont.  
W. S. Penn, from *How We Live Now* (presentation)

5/2- Tiffany Midge, *Guiding the Stars*

5/5- Final paper due