



**COURSE OUTLINE
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

INSTRUCTOR: James Mackay

COURSE CODE: ENG440

OFFICE HOURS: Mon 09:30-12:30

**COURSE NAME: Special Topics:
Cherokee Literatures in English**

(OFFICE NO. 315) Tues 15:00-18:00

SECTION: A

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ECTS : 6

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DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the literatures and cultures of modern-day Native Americans, concentrating particularly on Cherokee writing, music and film. The texts will be situated in relation to:

- the ancient oral Cherokee culture and language
- the experience of 19th century conquest, colonization, and Removal suffered by the Cherokee people
- the question of artistic and cultural appropriation
- the experiences of other modern-day American Indians and other Indigenous peoples.

Using a primarily "tribalcentric" approach will give students the chance to compare texts at a deeper level than is normally the case in surveys of Native literature: however, we will also cover alternative postcolonial and cosmopolitan approaches, and examine the questions raised by pan-Indian literary nationalism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students will be able to

- Identify unique traits and tropes of Cherokee writing
- Discuss the impact of factors such as ethnicity, gender and location on Cherokee authors
- Demonstrate a knowledge of Cherokee history as it manifests in the texts discussed
- Analyze the relationship between oral (translated Cherokee) tradition and written (English) literature
- Use traditional folk tales in interpreting modern-day Cherokee literature

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The following texts are available from EUC bookshop:

- Conley, Robert. *Windsong: A Novel of the Trail of Tears*. Norman: Oklahoma UP, 1995.
- Owens, Louis. *Nightland*. Norman: Oklahoma UP, 2001.
- Glancy, Diane. *Designs of the Night Sky*. Norman: Oklahoma UP, 2003
- Kilpatrick, Jack F. and Anna Kilpatrick, *Friends of Thunder: Folktales of the Oklahoma Cherokees*. 1963. Rev ed. Norman: Oklahoma UP, 1995.
- Awiakta, Marilou. *Selu: Seeking the Corn-Mother's Wisdom*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1994.
- Justice, Daniel Heath. *Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History*. Minneapolis: Minnesota UP, 2006

We will also study poetry (in course packet) by Gogisgi, Diane Glancy, Joy Harjo and Qwo-Li Driskill, and hold screenings of the documentary *Spiral of Fire* and the feature film *Doe Boy*.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Subject of Discussion	Textbooks needed
1	<i>Introduction to the course. Native American histories and literatures. Critical terminology. Methodologies and disputes.</i>	Handouts
2	<i>Modern Cherokee culture. Relationship to the United States. Survivance.</i> Screening: <i>Spiral of Fire</i> (documentary)	Friends of Thunder
3	<i>Storytelling and the oral tradition. Anthropology, ethnography and literary study. Stomp dance traditions.</i> Audio: Stomp Dance introductory tutorial.	Friends of Thunder 1 st assignment due
4	<i>Interpretation of traditional stories. Feminism, civil rights and Native American literatures. The Native American Renaissance.</i>	Selu
5	<i>Cherokee literature and interpretive strategies. Tribalcentric vs cosmopolitan approaches. Forming a Cherokee “canon.”</i>	Selu Our Fire Survives the Storm
6	<i>Tradition and modernity. Traditional religion and literary interpretation. Anthropology vs literary criticism.</i>	Nightland Selu Our Fire Survives the Storm
7	<i>Genre and Native American literature. Postcolonial and cosmopolitan approaches. Owens’ theoretical contributions</i>	Nightland Owens criticism (Handout) Our Fire Survives the Storm
8	<i>Native American film – stereotype and reality.</i> Screening: <i>Doe Boy</i> (Drama)	Our Fire Survives the Storm 2 nd assignment due
9	EASTER BREAK	
10	<i>Note: final deadline for withdrawal forms</i>	
11	<i>The Trail of Tears.</i>	Mountain Windsong Conley’s history (Handout)
12	<i>Nationalism and Native American literature. Ethnic nationalism and tribal sovereignty. Conley’s theoretical contributions.</i>	Mountain Windsong Our Fire Survives the Storm
13	<i>Postmodernism and Native American literature. Fragmentation and form.</i>	Designs of the Night Sky Owens criticism (handout)
14	<i>Cherokee and Christian? Feminist and traditional? Ideology, race and the definition of “Native American writing.”</i>	Designs of the Night Sky Selu 3 rd assignment due
15	<i>Cherokee poetry and drama – Gogisgi, Glancy and Driskill</i>	Handout
16, 17	FINAL EXAM	

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PREREQUISITE

ENG345 or permission of instructor

GRADING

Exams 60%:	Mid-Term – 20
	Final Exam – 40
Assignments 40%:	Essay Assignment – 35
	Storytelling assignment – 5

WARNING: The student must ensure that s/he has that prerequisite. Otherwise an F grade will be registered at the end of the semester. Please note that **Week 11** is the deadline for withdrawal from this course.

Students who fail to submit drafts of final papers and assignments according to set deadlines are liable to fail the course.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point font size, and 1 inch margins. Work that comes below the requested minimum word limits will fail.