

Syllabus: English 243
Spring 2008 – 2:00-3:15 TTH
303 Bowman Hall

Ph: 828-5332

The Literature and Culture of Native America
Edward W. Huffstetler
Email: ehuffste@bridgewater.edu

Texts: *American Indian Literature: An Anthology*, ed. Alan Velie
Lame Deer: Seeker of Visions, John (Fire) Lame Deer and Richard Erdoes
Ceremony, Leslie Marmon Silko
The Painted Drum, Louise Erdrich
Flight, Sherman Alexie

General Objectives:

To acquaint students with the cultures and traditions of the indigenous peoples of North America by discussing various aspects of these cultures from their beginnings in antiquity to their ongoing problems and concerns in the present. Another objective will be to discuss contemporary American Indian literary figures that have emerged since the 1960s in what has come to be called the Native American Renaissance, and to critically assess these writers' works, given the overall context of contemporary American literature.

Course Requirements:

Students will be expected to read all assigned material completely and on time, view all assigned films, write a short critical essay (2-3 pages long), a longer critical essay (5-7 pages long), and sit for a midterm and a final exam. There will also be a test on the films, and there may be quizzes on the readings.

Grading:

Students will receive up to 100 points (10%) for the shorter critical essay, up to 200 points (20%) for the longer critical essay, 100 points (10%) for the test on the films, and up to 200 points (20%) each for the midterm and the final exam. There will also be up to 200 (20%) points for attendance and participation, including any quizzes. Please note that while I will always be willing to discuss individual student performance on an assignment, I will not negotiate grades. The grade a student receives for any specific assignment is final.

A Note on Absences:

Class attendance is mandatory. Four absences will result in an F grade for attendance and participation. Any absences beyond four will result in failure of the course.

A Note on Late Papers and Exams:

Late papers or exams will not be tolerated. If a paper is submitted one class day after it was due, it will be accepted under the condition that it will lose one letter grade for tardiness. Papers submitted after that will not be accepted.

Schedule:

Tuesday
Jan 29: intro/syllabus
Feb 5: cultures
Feb 12: history
Feb 19: slides
Feb 26: religion & myth
Mar 4: *Lame Deer*
Mar 11: **Midterm Exam**

Short Essay due

Mar 25: *Ceremony*
April 1: *AIL: an Anthology*
April 8: *The Painted Drum*
April 15: *AIL: an Anthology*
April 22: *Flight*
April 29: film discussion
Final Essay due

Thursday
Jan 31: cultures
Feb 7: cultures
Feb 14: history
Feb 21: film-*In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*
Feb 28: religion & myth
Mar 6: *Lame Deer*
Mar 13: film discussion

Mar 18 & 20: **SPRING BREAK**

Mar 27: *Ceremony*
April 3: *AIL: an Anthology*
April 10: *The Painted Drum*
April 17: *AIL: an Anthology*
April 24: *Flight*
May 1-6: **FINAL EXAMS**

Film Schedule: (To be shown in Bowman 101 at 7:00 pm)

Feb 13: *Last of the Mohicans*
Feb 20: *Little Big Man*
Feb 27: *Thunderheart*
Mar 5: *Medicine River*

(no films during midterm week, spring break week, or the week after)

April 2: *The Last of His Tribe*
April 9: *Grand Avenue*
April 15: *Smoke Signals*
April 23: *The Business of Fancydancing*