

**Syllabus: English 243**  
**The Literature and Culture of Native America**  
**Spring 2004--1:00-1:50 MWF**  
**Edward W. Huffstetler**  
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**Texts:** *The Indian Heritage of America*, Alvin Josephy, Jr.  
*Nothing But The Truth: An Anthology of Native American Literature*, John Purdy and James Ruppert  
*Lame Deer: Seeker of Visions*, John (Fire) Lame Deer and Richard Erdoes  
*The Man Made of Words*, N. Scott Momaday  
*Tracks*, Louise Erdrich  
*Ceremony*, Leslie Marmon Silko  
*Indian Killer*, 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 who 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, keep a reading journal including at least five (5) responses (1 for each major work read) and six (6) responses (1 for each of six films viewed), 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.

**Grading:**

Students will receive up to 200 points for the reading journal, up to 200 points for the shorter critical essay, up to 500 points for the longer critical essay, and up to 300 points each for the midterm and the final exam. There will also be up to 200 points for attendance and participation. 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. Any absence after three will seriously lower your attendance and participation grade, and more than three absences will constitute an F for that grade. Any absences beyond these could seriously affect your final grade and could even cause failure in 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:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Jan 26: intro/syllabus	Jan 28: Josephy	Jan 30: Josephy
Feb 2: Josephy	Feb 4: Josephy	Feb 6: Josephy
Feb 9: Josephy/slides	Feb 11: Myths	Feb 13: Myths
Feb 16: Native Religion	Feb 18: Native Religion	Feb 20: film
Feb 23: Lame Deer	Feb 25: Lame Deer	Feb 27: MIDTERM
	Mar 1-5: SPRING BREAK	
Mar 8: Momaday	Mar 10: Momaday	Mar 12: Momaday
Mar 15: Purdy & Ruppert	Mar 17: Purdy & Ruppert	Mar 19: Purdy & Ruppert
Mar 22: Erdrich	Mar 24: Erdrich	Mar 26: Erdrich
Mar 29: Purdy & Ruppert	Mar 31: Purdy & Ruppert	Apr 2: Purdy & Ruppert
Apr 5: Silko	Apr 7: Silko	Apr 9: EASTER
Apr 12: EASTER	Apr 14: Silko	Apr 16: Silko
Apr 19: Purdy & Ruppert	Apr 21: Purdy and Ruppert	Apr 23: Purdy & Ruppert
Apr 26: Alexie	Apr 28: Alexie	Apr 30: Alexie
May 3: Review for final	May 5-11: FINAL EXAMS	

**Film Schedule:** (the following films will be shown via BC channel 15 at 7:00 pm. Students are required to watch and respond to at least five of the films below.)

Feb 2 & 3: *Last of the Mohicans*

Feb 9 & 10: *The Black Robe*

Feb 16 & 17: *Little Big Man*

Feb 23 & 24: *Thunderheart*

Mar 8 & 9: *Medicine River*

Mar 15 & 16: *The Education of Little Tree*

Mar 22 & 23: *The Last of His Tribe*

Mar 29 & 30: *Geronimo*

Apr 5 & 6: *Grand Avenue*

Apr 12 & 13: *Skins*

Apr 19 & 20: *Smoke Signals*

Apr 26 & 27: *The Business of Fancydancing*