

University of Oklahoma
RELS 3900.002
Spring 2004

Native Religious Traditions

Honors College 181
Monday 3:00-5:40

Prof. James Treat
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00
Office: Honors College 152
Office phone: 325-7415
E-mail: treaty@ou.edu
<http://honors.ou.edu/treaty/>

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar in native religious studies. Common readings survey the cultural contexts for native religious history and explore native religious diversity in the contemporary period, especially the relationship between tribal and Christian traditions in reservation and urban communities. Individual research projects focus on historical and/or comparative topics in native religious studies. Class discussions are supplemented by guest speakers, audiovisual presentations, and campus events. Students have the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of native religious traditions; to become familiar with the methodology of religious studies; to reflect on the broader theoretical and practical questions raised by the intersections of religion, culture, and politics in a diverse and conflicted world; and to develop their own critical skills for use in academic, professional, and personal settings.

Required Texts

These books can be purchased at the OU Bookstore and are also available at the reserve desk in Bizzell Memorial Library:

Larry J. Zimmerman and Brian Leigh Molyneaux, *Native North America* (London: Macmillan Publishers, 1996).

James Treat (ed.), *Native and Christian: Indigenous Voices on Religious Identity in the United States and Canada* (New York and London: Routledge, 1996).

James Treat (ed.), *For This Land: Writings on Religion in America* by Vine Deloria, Jr. (New York and London: Routledge, 1999).

James Treat, *Around the Sacred Fire: Native Religious Activism in the Red Power Era* (New York and Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan / St. Martin's Press, 2003).

Other course information and materials, including all assignment handouts, are available on-line through Blackboard:

<http://ou.blackboard.com/>

Please note that all e-mail communication related to this course is routed through Blackboard, which uses OU e-mail addresses.

Class Schedule

January 12	Course Introductions
January 19	NO CLASS
January 26	<i>Native North America</i> Reading Response and Research Report due
February 2	<i>Around the Sacred Fire</i> -87 Reading Response and Research Report due
February 9	<i>Around the Sacred Fire</i> -199 Reading Response and Research Report due
February 16	<i>Around the Sacred Fire</i> -308 Reading Response and Research Report due
February 23	<i>For This Land</i> -99 Reading Response and Research Report due
March 1	<i>For This Land</i> -202 Reading Response and Research Report due
March 8	<i>For This Land</i> -296 Reading Response and Research Report due
March 15	NO CLASS
March 22	<i>Native and Christian</i> -80 Reading Response and Research Report due
March 29	<i>Native and Christian</i> -153 Reading Response and Research Report due
April 5	<i>Native and Christian</i> -240 Reading Response and Research Report due
April 12	Research Presentations
April 19	Research Presentations
April 26	Course Conclusions Research Paper due
May 3	Final Exam due

Grading Criteria

Each assignment is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis according to the following schedule:

14 Class Meetings @ 10 points	140 points
10 Reading Responses @ 14 points	140 points
10 Research Reports @ 14 points	140 points
Research Presentation	40 points
Research Paper	100 points
Final Exam	140 points

Course grades are assigned according to a point system:

630-700 points	=	A
560-629 points	=	B
490-559 points	=	C
420-489 points	=	D