



Indigenous Religious Traditions

Syllabus

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics
Department of Religion

RLST 199 Section JT (50364)
Campus Honors Program

Spring 2009
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45
G24 Foreign Languages Building
(707 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana)

Prof. James Treat
treaty@illinois.edu
3023 Foreign Languages Building
(707 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana)

Welcome to the course!

This is an interdisciplinary survey of indigenous religious traditions, centered on North America.

Assigned readings are drawn from representative texts in indigenous religious studies.

Class discussions are supplemented by audiovisual materials, guest speakers, campus events, and web-based assignments.

Course grades are based on class participation and two examinations.

Students have the opportunity to gain a basic understanding of indigenous religions and to develop their critical skills for use in educational, professional, and personal settings.

Follow the links above, at left, or below for more information.



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Required Textbooks

The course textbooks can be purchased at the Illini Union Bookstore:

Joel W. Martin, *The Land Looks After Us: A History of Native American Religion* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Christopher Vecsey, *Traditional Ojibwa Religion and Its Historical Changes* (Philadelphia, PA: American Philosophical Society, 1983).

Robert J. Conley, *Cherokee Medicine Man: The Life and Work of a Modern-Day Healer* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005).

Jean Molesky-Poz, *Contemporary Maya Spirituality: The Ancient Ways Are Not Lost* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2006).

Peter Nabokov, *Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places* (New York, NY: Viking Penguin, 2006).

Kathleen Dean Moore and others (eds.), *How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova* (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2007).

These books are also available from the Media & Reserve Center at the Undergraduate Library.



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Course Schedule

Introductions	January 20
Martin	January 22 – January 27 – January 29
Vecsey	February 3 – February 5 – February 10 – February 12
Intermission	February 17
Conley	February 19 – February 24 – February 26
FIRST EXAM	March 3
Molesky-Poz	March 5 – March 10 – March 12 – March 17
Intermission	March 19
SPRING BREAK	March 24 – March 26
Nabokov	March 31 – April 2 – April 7 – April 9 – April 14
Cordova	April 16 – April 21 – April 23 – April 28
Conclusions	April 30
SECOND EXAM	May 5



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Grading Criteria

All course work is governed by the [Student Code](#)—please make sure you understand your rights and responsibilities as an Illinois student, especially the policy on [Academic Integrity](#) (including the [Definitions of](#), and [Penalties for](#), [Infractions of Academic Integrity](#)).

Each course assignment is evaluated according to the [Grading System](#). Special circumstances are handled in accordance with the [Policy for the Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#).

Course grades are determined according to the following schedule:

First Exam (33%) – Tuesday, March 3

Second Exam (33%) – Tuesday, May 5

Class Participation (33%) – 29 class meetings

In the event that you are unable to attend a class meeting, you can receive PARTIAL CREDIT by submitting a written response to the assigned readings within one week. Exceptions will be made only for the excused absences specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of section 1-501 of the policy on [Class Attendance](#), in which case you can receive FULL CREDIT by submitting supporting documentation along with a written response to the assigned readings within one week.