

University of Oklahoma
Honors College 2973.100
Perspectives on the American Experience
Fall 2000
MWF 10:30-11:20
Honors 180 and Gittinger 309

The Native American Experience

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Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of Native American history, culture, literature, and contemporary life. Class lectures and discussions focus on current issues such as identity, geography, religion, art, sovereignty, and tribal government, and are supplemented by guest speakers and audiovisual presentations. Course readings include historical narratives and literary expressions. Students gain a basic understanding of the continuity and innovation that has marked Native American survival and of the diversity and complexity that characterizes Indian country today.

Course Requirements

Course grades will be determined on the basis of class participation, several short response papers, and a final exam.

Course Readings

These texts are available for purchase at the OU Bookstore and are also on two-hour closed reserve at the Reserve Desk in Bizzell Memorial Library.

N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain* (1969)
Edward H. Spicer, *A Short History of the Indians of the United States* (1969)
Louise Erdrich, *Tracks* (1988)
James J. Rawls, *Chief Red Fox Is Dead: A History of Native Americans Since 1945* (1998)
N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (1968)
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)

Course Schedule

Monday, August 21: Course Introductions
Wednesday, August 23: *The Way to Rainy Mountain* 1-42
Friday, August 25: Discussion

Monday, August 28: *The Way to Rainy Mountain* 43-89
Wednesday, August 30: *A Short History* 1-44
Friday, September 1: Discussion

Monday, September 4: Labor Day Holiday
Wednesday, September 6: *A Short History* 147-184
Friday, September 8: Discussion

Monday, September 11: *A Short History* 45-97
Wednesday, September 13: *A Short History* 185-199, 227-230, 251-283
Friday, September 15: Discussion

Monday, September 18: *A Short History* 98-122, 200-211, 231-246, 284-289
Wednesday, September 20: *Tracks*
Friday, September 22: Discussion

Monday, September 25: *Tracks*
Wednesday, September 27: *Tracks*
Friday, September 29: Discussion

Monday, October 2: *Tracks*
Wednesday, October 4: *A Short History* 123-146
Friday, October 6: Discussion

Monday, October 9: *A Short History* 212-226, 247-250, 290-312

Wednesday, October 11: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 1-52

Friday, October 13: Discussion

Monday, October 16: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 53-104

Wednesday, October 18: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 105-137

Friday, October 20: Discussion

Monday, October 23: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 139-199

Wednesday, October 25: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 201-227

Friday, October 27: Discussion

Monday, October 30: *House Made of Dawn*

Wednesday, November 1: *House Made of Dawn*

Friday, November 3: Discussion

Monday, November 6: *House Made of Dawn*

Wednesday, November 8: *House Made of Dawn*

Friday, November 10: Discussion

Monday, November 13: *Ceremony*

Wednesday, November 15: *Ceremony*

Friday, November 17: Discussion

Monday, November 20: *Ceremony*

~~Wednesday, November 22~~: Thanksgiving Vacation

~~Friday, November 24~~: Thanksgiving Vacation

Monday, November 27: *Ceremony*

Wednesday, November 29: *Ceremony*

Friday, December 1: Discussion

Monday, December 4: *Chief Red Fox Is Dead* 229-264

Wednesday, December 6: Discussion

Friday, December 8: Course Conclusions