

University of Oklahoma
Honors College 2973.020
Perspectives on the American Experience
Spring 2002

The Native American Experience

Honors College 180
Tuesday 1:30-2:20, Thursday 1:30-3:20

Prof. James Treat
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30
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Course Description

Perspectives on the American Experience:
An interdisciplinary investigation of the social, economic, and political realities of American life and culture from the late nineteenth century to the present. Topics to be treated include immigration, the rise of mass production and consumer culture, the Great Migration, the Cold War, 1960s social movements, and current "culture wars."

The Native American Experience:
This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of American life, emphasizing American Indian perspectives on our collective history. Class lectures and discussions focus on contemporary issues and are supplemented by guest speakers and audiovisual presentations. Course readings include archival documents, historical narratives, cultural criticism, autobiography, short fiction, drama, and poetry; these written texts are supplemented by visual media including art, photography, film, and museum objects. Students have the opportunity to deepen their appreciation for the Native American experience, to broaden their understanding of responsible citizenship in the context of an emerging global society, and to develop their critical skills for use in academic, professional, and personal settings.

Course Requirements

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of class participation, three writing projects, three oral presentations, and a final examination.

Course Texts

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

Colin G. Calloway, *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of American Indian History* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999)

N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain* (University of New Mexico Press, 1969)

Greg Sarris, *Mabel McKay: Weaving the Dream* (University of California Press, 1994)

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Storyteller* (Seaver Books, 1981)

Gerald Vizenor, *The People Named the Chippewa: Narrative Histories* (University of Minnesota Press, 1984)

Course Schedule

January 15, 17

January 22, 24

January 29, 31

February 5, 7

February 12, 14

February 19, 21

February 26, 28

March 5, 7

March 12, 14

~~March 19, 21~~ (Spring Break)

March 26, 28

April 2, 4

April 9, 11

April 16, 18

April 23, 25

April 30, May 2

Wednesday, May 8, 1:30-3:30 (Final Exam)