



Native People and Christianity

Syllabus

Description

Textbooks

Schedule

Grading

Questions

University of Illinois

American Indian Studies

AIS 199 Section UC3

RLST 199 Section JT

Fall 2006

Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:50

Armory 384

(505 E. Armory, Champaign)

Prof. James Treat

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Native American House 2004

(1204 W. Nevada, Urbana)

Course Description

Required Textbooks

Assignment Schedule

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Comments and Questions

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Course Description

This interdisciplinary survey focuses on a fundamental aspect of American religious life: the native encounter with Christianity.

Situated at the intersection of native studies and religious studies, this course charts the cultural contexts for native religious history and explores native religious diversity in the contemporary period, particularly the relationship between tribal and Christian traditions in reservation and urban communities.

Assigned readings include historical interpretation, theological reflection, philosophical argument, cultural criticism, social analysis, political advocacy, autobiographical narrative, ethnographic description, and fictional stories by contemporary native writers.

Class discussions are supplemented by audiovisual materials, guest speakers, and campus events.

Students have the opportunity to gain a basic understanding of native religious traditions; 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 critical skills for use in academic, professional, and personal settings.

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Required Textbooks

The course textbooks can be purchased at the [Illini Union Bookstore](#):

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

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

James Treat (ed.), *Writing the Cross Culture: Native Fiction on the White Man's Religion* (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2006).

These books are also available from the [Media & Reserve Center](#) at the Undergraduate Library.

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Assignment Schedule

Week 1		August 24	Unit 1
Week 2	August 29	August 31	Unit 1
Week 3	September 5	September 7	Unit 1
Week 4	September 12	September 14	Unit 1
Week 5	September 19	September 31	Unit 1
Week 6	September 26	September 28	QUIZ / Unit 2
Week 7	October 3	October 5	Unit 2
Week 8	October 10	October 12	Unit 2
Week 9	October 17	October 19	Unit 2
Week 10	October 24	October 26	Unit 2
Week 11	October 31	November 2	Unit 2
Week 12	November 7	November 9	MIDTERM / Unit 3
Week 13	November 14	November 16	Unit 3
Week 14	November 21	November 23	NO CLASS
Week 15	November 28	November 30	Unit 3
Week 16	December 5	December 7	Unit 3 / FINAL



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Criteria for Grading

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

Special circumstances are handled in accordance with the policy on [Class Attendance](#) and the [Policy for Accommodation and Provision of Auxiliary Aids for Students with Disabilities](#).

Course grades are determined according to the following schedule:

Preliminary Quiz (10%) – Tuesday, September 26

Midterm Examination (25%) – Tuesday, November 7

Final Examination (25%) – Thursday, December 7

Class Participation (40%) – 29 class meetings

Each course assignment is evaluated according to the UIUC [Grading System](#).