



Native People and Christianity

Syllabus

Description	Textbooks	Grading	Questions
University of Illinois American Indian Studies AIS 199 Section A Spring 2006 Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:20 p.m. Armory 133 (505 E. Armory, Champaign) Prof. James Treat treaty@uiuc.edu (217) 333-3738 Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-2:30 p.m. Asian American Studies 1018 (1208 W. Nevada, Urbana)		January 17, 19 — Week 1: Course Introductions January 24, 26 — Week 2: Native North America (I) January 31, February 2 — Week 3: Native North America (II) February 7, 9 — Week 4: Native and Christian (I) February 14, 16 — Week 5: Native and Christian (II) February 21, 23 — Week 6: Native and Christian (III) February 28, March 2 — Week 7: Native and Christian (IV) March 7, 9 — Week 8: For This Land (I) March 14, 16 — Week 9: For This Land (II) March 21, 23 — Spring Break March 28, 30 — Week 10: For This Land (III) April 4, 6 — Week 11: For This Land (IV) April 11, 13 — Week 12: Writing the Cross Culture (I) April 18, 20 — Week 13: Writing the Cross Culture (II) April 25, 27 — Week 14: Writing the Cross Culture (III) May 2, 5 — Week 15: Course Conclusions	



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This is an interdisciplinary survey of the native religious experience, focusing on 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 (1) a basic overview of native religious traditions, (2) an anthology of theological essays by native Christian leaders, (3) a collection of writings on religion by Vine Deloria, Jr., and (4) a new anthology of fictional narratives about Christianity by 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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The course textbooks can be purchased at the Illini Union Bookstore and are also available from the Media & Reserve Center at the Undergraduate Library:

Larry J. Zimmerman and Brian Leigh Molyneaux, *Native North America* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996).

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).



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All course work is governed by the Student Code—please make sure you understand your rights and responsibilities as a UTUC 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:

Class Participation (25%) — 29 meetings, January 17 to May 2

Midterm Examination (15%) — Thursday, March 2, 1:00-2:20 p.m.

Research Project (35%) — due Tuesday, May 2, 1:00 p.m.

Final Examination (25%) — Friday, May 5, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Each course assignment is evaluated according to the UTUC Grading System.