



Native Religious Traditions

Syllabus

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University of Illinois
Program for the Study of Religion

RLST 140 Section A

AIS 140 Section E

Fall 2007

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50

113 Gregory Hall

(810 S. Wright St., Urbana)

Prof. James Treat

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(217) 333-3171

3023 Foreign Languages Building

(707 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana)

Welcome to the course!

This is an interdisciplinary survey of native religious traditions, exploring the breadth and depth of spiritual expression among native people in North America.

Assigned readings and class discussions cover a variety of important themes including sacred landscapes, mythic narratives, oral histories, communal identities, tribal values, elder teachings, visionary experiences, ceremonial practices, prayer traditions, and trickster wisdom. Students also consider historic encounters with missionary colonialism and contemporary strategies for religious self-determination. Class discussions are supplemented by audiovisual materials and guest speakers.

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

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Course Schedule

Introductions	August 23 – August 28
Chapter 1	August 30 – September 4 – September 6
Chapter 2	September 11 – September 13 – September 18
Chapter 3	September 20 – September 25 – September 27
FIRST EXAM	October 2 – October 4
Chapter 4	October 9 – October 11 – October 16
Chapter 5	October 18 – October 23 – October 25
SECOND EXAM	October 30 – November 1
Chapter 6	November 6 – November 8 – November 13
Chapter 7	November 15 – November 27 – November 29
Conclusions	December 4
THIRD EXAM	December 6

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Required Textbook

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

Sam D. Gill, *Native American Religions: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005).

This book is also available from the Media & Reserve Center at the Undergraduate Library.

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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 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:

First Exam (25%) — Tuesday, October 2

Second Exam (25%) — Tuesday, October 30

Third Exam (25%) — Thursday, December 6

Class Participation (25%) — 29 class meetings

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

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