

Phil 3610/Rel 3610 (20431 & 20445)
Native American Thought and Cultures
Spring 2010

Dr. L. Lovern
Email: llovern@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: MW 12-2pm
Office: 101 Ashley Hall
Phone: 333-7376

Course Description:

A study of Native American cultures in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion and spirituality. The course will examine historic and current trends related to the interaction between Native American and Western cultures.

Detailed Course Outline:

A study of Native American cultures in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion and spirituality. These concepts will be explored in terms of pre- and post-contact, traditional and assimilation issues as well as Native American and Western cultural interactions both socially and politically. The course will examine historic and current trends related to the differences and development of interaction between Native American cultures and Western cultures and how these interactions influence issues of health, education and poverty in Native American cultures.

VSU General Education Outcomes:

- #2. Students will demonstrate cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other societies.
- #4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening.
- #6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, the humanities, and in the social sciences.
- #8. Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles of ethics and their employment in the analysis and resolution of moral problems.

Philosophy Selected Educational Outcomes:

1. To explain and analyze central issues, topics, and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. To write and speak critically and logically, applying various theories to specific cases and examples.
3. To explain their own value system, evaluating their values in the context of a diverse range of ideas which inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.

4. To create independent philosophical research, synthesizing a variety of sources including traditional primary philosophical texts and secondary source commentaries.
5. To demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Religion Selected Educational Outcomes:

1. To explain and interpret the world's religious traditions and their influence on values, norms, and public policies.
2. To apply critical and analytical skills in analyzing multiple religious perspectives.
3. To identify and evaluate their self-understanding in the context of diverse ideas that inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. To create independent research, synthesizing sources including sacred texts, religious autobiographies, and other secondary sources.
5. To demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Course Outcomes:

1. The student will demonstrate a basic knowledge of differing Native American cultures in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion, spirituality and ethics. (VSU #2, #6, #8)
2. The student will demonstrate a basic historical knowledge of the religions, spiritualities and worldviews as well as knowledge of current social, political issues. (VSU #2, #8)
3. The student will demonstrate an ability to rationally discuss and analyze the difference between Western epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion and spirituality and those of Native American cultures. (VSU # 2, #4, #8)
4. The student will demonstrate a basic knowledge involving issues of ethics, politics and religious issues. (VSU # 8)
5. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of inter-cultural interaction between Western and Native American cultures in the area of education, health and poverty. (VSU #2, #4, #8)

Special Needs:

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with me at the beginning of the semester. If you are such a student, but are not registered with the Access office, you should contact the Access office in Farber Hall. The phone number is 245-2498 (V/VP) or 219-1348 (TTY). Email access@valdosta.edu. The student success center is also available.

Academic Honesty:

Students in this course are held to the highest levels of academic honesty. Plagiarism or otherwise unethical behavior will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult the student handbook, or ask your professor. Violations of policy on

academic honesty and integrity will be dealt with as per established University procedure.
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

Attendance:

Because of the nature of this course, attendance is required. Students missing more than two classes, without an approved excuse, may be subject to a drop in grade. The professor determines excused and unexcused.

Reading List:

The pace of this course will be determined by the abilities of the students. Assignments will be given in class. The dates of the exams will also be based on the pace of student understanding. These dates will also be given in class at least one week in advance. An initial schedule outline is given below for student reference.

Late Work:

Students must complete all homework on time unless approved by the professor. All quizzes and tests must be taken on time unless approved by the professor.

Cell Phones:

Because some students have family responsibilities, cell phones will be allowed in class. As the ring of a phone is disruptive, phones should be placed on silent ring. **NO** text messaging will be allowed in class. If you must communicate with someone by phone, you need to leave the classroom.

Text:

Native Science: natural laws of interdependence by Gregory Cajete
Spirit & Reason: the Vine Deloria, Jr. Reader ed. Barbara Deloria
Wisdom Sits in Places by Keith H. Basso
Red Pedagogy by Sandy Grande

Grades:

Reading Quizzes 100 pts.
Five-page paper (2) 100 pts. each
Final Paper 200pts.
Attendance/Participation 50pts.
Total Points: 550

Reading Quizzes

A reading quiz will be given each Tuesday at the first of class. A student has two weeks to make up a missed quiz if the absence was excused.

Five-page papers:

Each student will write two five-page papers. The student may pick the topic, with the professor's approval. These papers are to be researched, with at least 3-5 sources. The papers are to be typed according to standard APA/MLA/Chicago style sheet depending on which style sheet is used by the student's major. Do not use more than one of your

class texts in your sources. Other sources must be academic such as journals from JSTOR or library books. Your topics must relate to the topics discussed in this course. You may not use papers from other courses for these assignments.

Final Paper:

The final paper of ten pages will be a topic of the student's choice (approved by the professor). However, the topic must relate directly to this course. A paper from another course may not be used for this assignment. This paper will be researched and manufactured according to APA/MLA/Chicago style sheet. The paper must have 5-10 sources of which only one course texts may be used. Other sources must be academic such as JSTOR or library books. These papers will be due during the finals period.

Reading List

Week 1: Native Science

Week 2: Native Science

Week 3: Native Science

Week 4: Native Science

Week 5: Spirit & Reason *Paper 1 due*

Week 6: Spirit & Reason

Week 7: Spirit & Reason

Week 8: Spirit & Reason

Week 9: Red Pedagogy

Week 10: Red Pedagogy

Week 11: Red Pedagogy

Week 12: Red Pedagogy

Week 13: *Spring Break*

Week 14: Wisdom Sits in Places *Paper 2 due*

Week 15: Wisdom Sits in Places

Week 16: Wisdom Sits in Places

Week 17: *Finals*