

Phil 3630/Rel 3630/WGST 4600
Native American Women

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Course Description:

An examination of the contributions of North and South American Indigenous women in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion, spirituality and ethics. The course will include a range of Indigenous cultures including Alaskan, Hawaiian, and Pacific/Atlantic islanders and will explore the issues faced by Indigenous women in the Western hemisphere

Detailed Course Outline:

This course will examine the historic and current contributions of North/South American Indigenous women in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion, spirituality and ethics. Because of the expanse of tribes and nations, the course will include as many Indigenous cultures as possible including Alaskan, Hawaiian, and Pacific/Atlantic islanders. The students will explore the knowledge and cultures of these women, using Indigenous voices, and compare these systems to Western systems. The course will be devoted to gaining an understanding of the historic and current issues faced by Indigenous women in the Western hemisphere including knowledge theory, social systems and political issues

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 encourage an understanding of central issues, topics and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. To develop students' abilities to think, write, and speak critically and logically.
3. To enable students to challenge their own ideas and to develop self-understanding in the context of a diverse range of ideas which inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. To enable students to engage in independent philosophical research, and to be responsible for communicating their understanding of the issues researched and developed, including a working familiarity with current research methods.

Religion Selected Educational Outcomes:

1. To encourage an understanding of the world's religious traditions and their influence on values, norms, and public policies.
2. To develop students' critical and analytical skills and their abilities to articulate clearly an attention to multiple religious perspectives.
3. To enable students to challenge their own ideas and to develop self-understanding in the context of diverse ideas that informs contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. To enable students to engage in independent research, to increase their sense of problem and to communicate their understanding of the issues researched and developed in the context of current theories and research methods in the discipline.

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 as these relate to women. (VSU #2, #6, #8)
2. The student will demonstrate a basic historical knowledge of these religions and worldviews as well as knowledge of current social, political and religious 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/Indigenous cultures in terms of women's issues. (VSU #2, #4, #6)
4. The student will demonstrate a basic knowledge involving issues of ethics, politics and religious issues in terms of women's issues and how these issues relate to internal and external cultural dynamics. (VSU #2, #8)
5. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of inter-cultural interaction between Western and Native American cultures in the areas of education, health and poverty both historically and the current trends relating to power structural/cultural differences. (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 Special Services Program, you should contact the Special Services office in Powell Hall. The phone number is 245-2498. 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. See for reference, <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.

Evaluations:

Evaluations will be done in the student's Banner account at the end of the semester. These will be completed in class.

Text:

Weaving the Past: a history of Latin America's Indigenous women from prehispanic period to the present by Susan Kellogg

Grandmothers Counsel the World by Carol Schaefer

Daughters of Abya Yala ed. By Wara Alderete, Gina Pacaldo, Xihuanel Huerta, and Lucilene Whitesell

WebCT readings

Grades:

Reading Quizzes 100 pts.

Discussion papers 100 pts.

Five-page paper (2) 100 pts. each

Final Paper 200pts.

Attendance/Participation 50 pts.

Total Points: 650

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 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.

Final Paper:

The final paper will be a topic of the student's choice (approved by the professor). This paper will be researched and manufactured according to APA/MLA/Chicago style sheet. These papers will be due during the finals period.

Reading Assignments

Week 1: Kellogg chpt. 2

Week 2: Kellogg chpt. 4

Week 3: Kellogg chpt. 5

Group presentations

Week 4: Schaefer readings beginning on pp. 27 & 69 & 77

Week 5: Schaefer readings beginning on pp. 87 & 93

Week 6: Schaefer pp. 115-205

First 5-page paper due

Week 7: WebCT

Week 8: Daughters of Abya Yala

Week 9: Schaefer readings beginning on pp. 15 & 35 & 43

Week 10: Schaefer readings beginning on pp. 55 & 61

Week 11: WebCT

Week 12: WebCT

Second 5-page paper due

Week 13: WebCT

Week 14: WebCT

Group presentations

Week 15: WebCT

Week 16: WebCT

Week 17: Finals

10-page paper due