

Virginia Western Community College

HUM 215

Native American Culture

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys the cultural history of Native (Indian) peoples in the Americas from the pre-Columbian era until the present. Studies history, religion, literature, arts, life-ways and world-views which comprise the diverse traditions of Native peoples.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

1. Neihart, John G.: *Black Elk Speaks*, Dramatic Pub Co., 1996. ISBN# 978-1-438-42540-5
2. Noley, Homer: *First White Frost*, Abingdon Press, 1991. ISBN# 978-0-687-13051-1
3. Deloria, Vine: *Red Earth, White Lies*, Fulcrum Publishing, 1997 ISBN# 978-1-555-91388-5

Other Required Materials:

1. Deloria, Vine: *God is Red: A Native View of Religion*, Third Ed., Putnam Publishing, 2003
2. *Custer Died for Your Sins*, Reprint Ed., Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1988
3. Mankiller, Wilma: *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, St. Martin's Press, 1993
4. Mooney, James: *The Ghost Dance...*, Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1991

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify distinct cultural areas, social characteristics, and historical development of Native American peoples.
- Identify historical roots of modern Native American culture
- Identify the unique historical pressures which still shape Native people today
- Identify the development of Native American identity for the 20th and 21st centuries

Topical Description

1	The Nature of Native American Culture a. Methodological Difficulties b. Multitude of Cultural Roots c. Reasons to Pursue this Study
2	Paleolithic Roots a. Moundbuilders b. Ancient Ancestors (Anasazi) c. Early City Civilizations
3	Seven Cultural Areas a. Northeast b. Southeast c. Desert Southwest d. Plains e. California and Great Basin f. Northwest g. Arctic
4	Pre-Modern Worldview
5	Native American Cultural Attitudes a. The circle of seasons b. Storytelling c. Cosmology d. Warriors, women, children, and elders e. Ethics
6	Modern Developments a. Pan-Indianism b. Music and the arts c. Messianic Movements d. Social ills and signs of hope

Notes to Instructors

None