AMIND 470/REL 470
American Indian Spirituality and Epistemologies
Spring 2016 Online

Instructor: Seth San Juan
Class Meets: Online, Jan. 20th-May 12th
Contact: ssanjuan@mail.sdsu.edu or ssanjuan@palomar.edu or call 760-744-1150 ex. 2426

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to American Indian spirituality and epistemologies and the complex range of issues associated with studying American Indian belief systems. Particular attention will be given to examining American Indian spirituality and epistemologies prior to extensive contact and the subsequent impact past and present of European colonization.

Course Policies:
1) Discussion participation is a must.
2) Students are responsible for the readings.
3) Late assignments will not be accepted.

Assignments:
Discussion Board Posts:
There will be 9 discussion board posts due throughout the semester based on the readings, topics, and videos for each week. Posts will be available Monday and close Saturday at 11:59pm. Your posts should clearly answer the questions and engage other posts in conversation.

Quizzes:
There will be 5 quizzes throughout the semester. They will include multiple-choice and true/false questions.

Book Review:
Each student is expected to write a book review. There are two options for the book review. Option 1 is Wisdom Sits in Places by Keith Basso which is scheduled to be due by Saturday Mar. 5th at 11:59 pm. Option 2 is The World We Use to Live In by Vine Deloria Jr. and is scheduled to be due by Saturday Mar 26th. Directions for this assignment can be found in the Book Review content tab on blackboard.

Midterm and Final Exams:
The midterm and final exams may include any combination of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and short essay exams.
**Evaluation:**
Nine Discussion Board Posts: 45 points (5 points each)
Five Quizzes: 50 Points (10 points each)
Book Review: 25 Points
Midterm Exam: 40 points
Final Exam: 40 points

**Grading Scale:**
200-180=A
179-160=B
159-140=C
139-120=D
119=F

**Required Texts:**


**Weekly Reading Schedule and Assignments:**

**Week 1: Jan 19th - 23rd**
*Introduction to American Indian Beliefs and Spirituality*

**Read:** Walter R. Echo-Hawk, “Five Hundred Nations Within One: The Search for Religious Justice.” *BB*

**Assignments:** Discussion Board post # 1 due by Saturday Jan. 23rd at 11:59pm.

**Week 2: Jan. 25th-30th**
*Invasion and Colonization: European Contact and Tribal Epistemologies*

**Read:** Willard Hughes Rollings, “Indians and Christianity” and Joanne Brooks, “Hard Feelings Samson Occom Contemplates his Christian Mentors.” *BB*

**Assignments:** Quiz #1 due by Saturday Jan. 30th at 11:59pm.

**Week 3: Feb 1st - 6th**
*Invasion and Colonization: Assimilation and Tribal Epistemologies*

**Read:** Brenda Childs, “Boarding School Sessions (pgs. 1-42)” *BB*
**Watch:** Where the Spirit Lives

**Assignments:** Discussion Board post #2 due by Saturday Feb. 6th at 11:59pm.
Week 4: Feb 8th-13th
*Exploring Tribal Epistemologies: Place and Time*

**Read:** Vine Deloria, Jr., “Thinking in Time and Space” and “The Problem of Creation.” Leslie Marmon Silko, “Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit.” **BB**
**Assignments:** Discussion Board Post #3 due by Saturday Feb. 13th at 11:59pm.

Week 5: Feb. 15th-20th
*Exploring Tribal Epistemologies: Place and Time (cont.)*

**Read:** Ted Jojola, “Notes on Identity, Time, Space, and Place.” **BB**
**Watch:** In Light of Reverence
**Assignments:** Discussion Board Post #4 due by Saturday Feb. 20th at 11:59pm.

Week 6: Feb. 22nd-27th
*Tribal Oral Traditions*

**Read:** Keith Basso, “Wisdom Sits in Places” (Preface, Ch. 1 and 2)
**Assignments:** Discussion Board Post #5 due by Saturday Feb. 27th at 11:59pm.

Week 7: Feb. 29th-Mar. 5th
*Tribal Oral Traditions*

**Read:** Keith Basso, “Wisdom Sits in Places” (Ch. 3, 4 and Epilogue)
**Assignments:** Quiz #2 and Response paper option one on “Wisdom Sits in Places”

Week 8: Mar. 7th-12th
*Art, Song, and Spirituality*

**Read:** Joseph Epes Brown, “There is No Word for Art: The Creative Process” **BB**
**Watch:** Songs of The Colorado and Teachings of the Tree People
**Assignments:** Discussion Board Post #6 due by Saturday Mar. 12th at 11:59pm.

Week 9: Mar. 14th-19th
*Power and Spiritual Experience*

**Read:** Vine Deloria Jr., “The World We Used to Live In” (Intro., Ch.1-4)
**Assignments:** Mid Term

Week 10: Mar. 21st-26th
*Power and Spiritual Experience*

**Read:** Vine Deloria Jr. “The World We Used to Live In” (Ch. 5-8)
Assignments: Quiz #3 and Deloria Response Paper

Week 11: Mar. 28th-Apr. 2nd SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Apr. 4th-9th
Plain: Stories and Epistemologies
Read: Michael Edward Melody, “Maka’s Story: A Study of a Lakota Cosmogony” and various Plains origin and creation stories. BB
Watch: Circle of the Sun
Assignments: Discussion Board #7 due by Saturday Apr. 9th at 11:59pm.

Week 13: Apr. 11th-16th
Southwest: Stories and Epistemologies
Read: Frank Cushing, Origin Myth from Oraibi and various Southwest origin and creation stories. BB
Watch: Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World and Seasons of the Navajo
Assignments: Quiz #4 due by Saturday Apr. 16th at 11:59pm.

Week 14: Apr. 18th-23rd
California: Stories and Epistemologies
Read: Constance Goddard Du Bois, “The Mythology of the Diegueños” and various California origin and creation stories. BB
Watch: First People-Kumeyaay
Assignments: Discussion Board post #8 due by Saturday Apr. 23rd at 11:59pm.

Week 15: Apr 25th-30th
Native American’s and Christianity
Read: Thomas Constantine Maroukis, “The Origins and Development of the Peyote Religion and the Native American Church” and Frank Dayish Jr., “The Triumph of the Native American Church: Celebrating the Free Exercise of Religion.” BB
Watch: The Peyote Road
Assignments: Quiz #5 due by Saturday Apr. 30th at 11:59pm.

Week 16: May 2nd-7th
Contemporary Issues
Read: Maureen E. Smith, “Crippling the Spirit, Wounding the Soul: Native American Spiritual and Religious Suppression” BB
Annettte Arkeketa, Repatriation: Religious Freedom, Equal Protection, and Institutional Racism” BB
Lisa Aldred, “Plastic Shamans and Astroturf Sun Dances: New Age Commercialization of Native American Spirituality” BB

**Assignments:** Discussion Board post #9 due by Saturday May 7th at 11:59pm.

**Week 17: May 6th-12th**
**FINAL EXAM due by Thursday May 12th at 11:59pm.**

**Please Note:** This syllabus, the readings and/or the dates of lectures and assignments are subject to change.