Course Description. This course seeks to understand the cultural values experienced and expressed in the religious life of the American Indian peoples as well as their contribution to contemporary cross-cultural discussions on issues of: health and healing, ecology and morality, community and individuals, and issues of conquest, genocide and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Course Format. Lecture/Discussion.

Course Goals. Through reading and discussing ethnological narratives (Shamanic Voices) and historical novels (Waterlily) students will come away with an enhanced appreciation of the effect that culture has on the way peoples construct and experience their relationships with one another, with nature, and with the sacred. Through study of scholarly works on alternative medicine and healing rituals, native ecologies, and cultural genocide, students will come to understand how the traditions and historical experiences of native peoples can shed light on issues of global relevance. Through discussion and written exploration, students will demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection on their own cultural and personal attitudes, values, and ways of conducting relationships with the human, natural and divine dimensions of reality.

Attendance is expected. Absences may affect that part of the grade drawn from the writing assignments (see below). Participation will be recognized and may affect one’s final grade, especially if “borderline.”

Evaluation of Performance.

1) Writing-to-Learn Assignments. Either written at home prior to class or in the classroom at the beginning of class, these one-page exercises are intended to: help the student keep current with the reading assignments, improve classroom participation, and indicate problems in comprehension or expression. They will be graded “S” or a “U.” One cannot “make up” a missed writing assignment. If a student is absent for an in-class assignment, he or she receives a “U” unless legitimately excused. In such a case, and after presenting acceptable documentation, he or she will have the opportunity to complete an alternative assignment. If 80% or more of graded assignments receive an "S," the final grade for the course will be raised one notch (e.g. B to B+). If 51 to 79% receive an "S," the final grade does not change. If 50% or less, the final grade
will drop one notch (e.g., B- to C+).

2) **Essay Exams.** There will be three essay exams, weighed equally. They will be non-cumulative except for the final where the instructor reserves the right to ask one question on overall course content.

**Plagiarism.** Please check the Student Handbook on the Moravian College Honesty Policy. Plagiarism on a writing assignment will result in a "U" for that assignment and the dropping of the final grade for the course by one notch (e.g. B to B-). A second offense will mean an "F" for the course. Plagiarism in one of the essay exams will result in an "F" for the course. In both cases of failing, the Academic Dean will be notified.

**Snow or Illness Policy.** If the weather is bad but the college is officially open, students should check the Moravian Weather Hotline to determine whether or not the instructor has cancelled class. When other circumstances require that class be cancelled, the Registrar's Office will place a notice on the classroom door. If class is cancelled, please read the assignment for the following class.

---

**Required Texts (In Order of Use)**

Halifax, Joan *Shamanic Voices*. Viking Penguin.
Sandner, Donald, M.D. *Navaho Symbols of Healing*. Healing Arts Press.
Deloria, Ella Cara, *Waterlily*. University of Nebraska Press.

---

**Articles On Reserve from These Works:**

Sullivan, Lawrence E. *Native Religions and Cultures of North America*. New York: Continuum Press,

---

**DATE** | **TOPIC AND READING**
---|---
Jan 10 | Introduction to the Course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Native American Religions: Orientation</td>
<td>Read: Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>I. Approaching &quot;the Other: Shamanism and the Status of Religious Experience</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A. Classical Shamanism</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Shamanism: Introduction</td>
<td>Read: Halifax, 3-22; 29-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>No Class. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Siberian Shamans: Call and Initiation</td>
<td>Read: &quot;Sereptie&quot; in Halifax, 35-52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan. 21 | Shamanic Vision: Circum-and Sub-Polar                               | Read: Igjugarjuk/Eskimo in Halifax, 63-75  
|         |                                                                  | Joel/Doigrin (Canada) Halifax, 148-156 |
| Jan. 24 | Spirits in Narrative: Circum- and Sub-Polar                         | Read: Halifax, 107-123; 164-168 |
|        | **B. "Democratic" Shamanism**                                       |                                |
| Jan. 26 | Puberty Vision Quest: Beavers of Canada                             | Read: Ridington, “Beaver Dreaming and Singing” (On Reserve)  
|         |                                                                  | From Sam Gill, Native American Traditions |
| Jan. 28 | The Lakota Vision Quest of the Plains                               | Read: "Lame Deer" in Halifax, pp. 70-75  
|         |                                                                  | "Leonard Crow Dog" in Halifax, pp.76-86 |
| Feb. 02 | Woodlands: Ojibway Shamanism                                        | Read: John Grim, "Ojibway Shamanism" (On Reserve)  
<p>|         |                                                                  | from The Shaman                  |
|        | <strong>C. Sacramental Plants: Vision and Power</strong>                         |                                |
| Feb. 04 | Mexican Shamanism: A Huichol Healer                                | Read: Halifax, 135-7; 169-172; 233-237; 249-252 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Video</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 07</td>
<td>Shamanic Training in the Amazon</td>
<td>Read: “Shamanic Training through Plant Diets” In <em>Amazon Magic</em> by Don Agustin Rivas Vasquez (On Reserve) Video: &quot;Ecology of the Mind&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 09</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 11</td>
<td><strong>II. Cultural Dimensions of Health and Healing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 11</td>
<td>Medicine, Meaning and Healing</td>
<td>Read: Sandner, Chs. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 14</td>
<td>Navaho Religion: The Parts.</td>
<td>Read: Sandner, Ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 18</td>
<td>Healing &amp; the Return to Origins</td>
<td>Read: Sandner, Ch. 6 Video. &quot;At the Threshold&quot; M.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 20</td>
<td>Sunday Evening. 6:00-7:00. PPHAC-101</td>
<td>Presentation: “Our Experience with the Navaho” Moravian College Students Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 23</td>
<td>The Death-Rebirth Experience</td>
<td>Read: Sandner, Ch. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 25</td>
<td>Symbolic Shamanism</td>
<td>Read: Sandner, Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Feb. 28</td>
<td>The Koyukon Peoples</td>
<td>Read: Nelson, Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 02</td>
<td>Nature as the Watchful World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**III. Ecology and Moral Spirituality: The Koyukon of Alaska**
Read: Nelson, Ch. 2
Video. MPTR #1

Mar. 04  Powers of Earth, Air and Water
Read: Nelson, Chs. 3 & 6
Video. MPTR #3

Mar. 07-11  NO CLASSES. SPRING BREAK

Mar. 14  The Predatory Mammals
Read: Nelson, Ch. 9
Video. MPTR #4

Mar. 16  The Large Mammals
Read: Nelson, Ch. 10
Video. MPTR #5

Mar. 18  Koyukon Principles & Practices
Read: Nelson, Chs. 12 & 13
Video. MPTR #2

Mar. 21  EXAM #2

IV. Kinship and Gender Relationships
The Plains Indians

Mar. 23  The Plains Indians
Video. People of the Plains. Part One.
Read: "Lakota Religion" in Sullivan (On Reserve).

Mar. 25&28  No Class. Easter Break

Mar. 30  The Infant: It takes a Village
Read: Waterlily, Chs. 1-3

Apr. 01  Learning Kinship Behavior
Read: Waterlily, Chs. 4-7

Apr. 04  From Girl to Woman: Identity and Rites of Passage
Read: Waterlily, Ch. 8
Video: "Mistaken Identity" (M.3.4.)

Apr. 06  Initiation Ceremony of Girls: the Mescalero Apache
Read: "...Contemporary Mescalero Apache Ceremonialism" by I. Talamantez in Sullivan (Reserve)
Video: "Apache Sunrise Dance"

Apr. 08 Life Cycle: From Boy to Man
Read: Waterlily, Chs. 9&10
Video. “Mistaken Identity” (M.3.3)

Apr. 11 The Sun Dance
Read: Waterlily, Ch. 11

Apr. 13 Responsibilities: Caring for the Dead
Read: Waterlily, Ch. 12&13

Apr. 15 Destiny
Read: Waterlily, Chs. 14 & 15
(Finish Chs. 16 & 17 on your own)

April 17 Sunday, 2:00p.m. Lecture. Bethlehem Historical Society
Dr. Jane Merritt. Mandatory.

V. Genocide: Physical, Biological and Cultural

Apr. 18 Genocide: "Latin" America, Past and Present
Read: "Genocide in the Americas," (On Reserve)
from Ward Churchill, A Little Matter of Genocide

Apr. 20 Confronting Genocide in the U.S.
Read: “Confronting Columbus Day” (On Reserve)
from Churchill, Acts of Rebellion

Apr. 22 The Settler State: Your Land is Our Land
Read: “The Law Stood Squarely on its Head” (On Reserve)
from Churchill, Acts of Rebellion.”

Apr. 25 God, Guns and Guts
Read: Ch. 6 “The Enduring Dilemma” (On Reserve)
from Missionary Conquest by George E. Tinker

April 27 Education for Extinction: Civilization and Evangelization
Read: “Reform” (on Reserve)
from David Wallace Adams, Education for Extinction

April 29 Concluding Considerations