Course Description. A study of the traditional religious life of selected indigenous peoples of North America. The Lakota, Navaho, Koyukon and Yu'pik will be explored along with material from Eastern Woodlands peoples. Major religious phenomena will include: life-cycle and kinship celebrations, the dream-vision experience, mythology, the shaman, healing ceremonies, and sacred ecology. Contemporary issues such as the environment, gender relations, and alternative healing methods will also be examined.

Course Format. Lecture/Discussion.

Learning Objectives. Through the readings and discussions, students will develop an understanding of the way religious symbols and cultural traditions shape peoples' view of and relationships with other people, the natural world and sacred beings. Through written exploration and discussions, students will demonstrate a capacity to reflect on their own cultural and personal beliefs, attitudes, and values pertaining to nature, gender, health and healing, and sacred beings.

Snow or Illness Policy. Even when blizzard conditions prevail, if the college has not declared itself officially closed (call the Moravian weather hotline), students should assume that classes will be held (off-campus residents should exercise prudence, however). When the instructor is ill, snowed in or otherwise unable to make class, he will contact the Registrar who will notify the HUB and place a notice on the classroom door prior to class time. In such a case a student is not responsible for showing up for or remaining in the classroom for the usual twenty minute courtesy period. If class is cancelled, please read the assignment for the next class.

Evaluation

1) Writing-to-Learn Assignments. These one-page exercises are written either prior to class at home or at the beginning of class in the room and are intended to improve classroom participation, indicate to the teacher if a student is having problems with the work and help the student to keep up with the reading
assignments. They will be marked with a “S” or a “U.” If you are absent you receive a “U” if a writing assignment was given in class. At the end of the semester the records will be tallied: if you receive an “S” on 80% or more of your graded (S or U) papers, your final grade for the course will be raised one notch (ex. B to B+). Between 51 and 79%, your final grade does not change. If 50% or fewer are marked with an “S,” your final average grade for the three essay exams drops one notch (ex. B- to C+). In-class writing assignments or assignments not turned in cannot be “made up.” Exceptions will be granted only for serious reasons.

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

3) Attendance and Participation. Students are expected to come to each class. Roll will be taken. They are expected to have read the material for that class and to be prepared to raise and answer questions or to otherwise participate in discussions. Participation can positively affect one’s grade especially if one is one the borderline between two grades. Missing in-class writing assignments may also affect one’s grade.

Required Texts

Neihardt, John, Black Elk Speaks. Univ. of Chicago,

OUTLINE

I. THE PLAINS (Tradition and Change)
   Gender, Kinship and the Life-Cycle
   Jan. 20 Introduction to Course
   The Plains Indians
   Video. People of the Plains. Part One.
   Jan. 22 The Infant: It takes a Village
   Read: Waterlily, Chs. 1-3
   Jan. 27 Growing Up Amid Relatives
   Waterlily, Chs. 4-7
   Jan. 29 Initiation into Womanhood
   Read: Waterlily, Ch. 8
   “Preparing for Womanhood” On Reserve
   Feb. 03 Life Cycle: From Boy to Man
   Read: Waterlily, Chs. 9&10
   Video. “Mistaken Identity” (M.3.)
Feb. 05  The Sun Dance
      Read: Waterlily, Ch. 11
Feb. 10  Responsibilities: Caring for the Dead
      Read: Waterlily, Ch. 12&13
Feb. 12  Destiny
      Read: Waterlily, Chs. 14 & 15 (Complete on own)
      TAKE HOME EXAM #1
Feb. 17  Black Elk and the Search for Renewal
      Video. People of the Plains. Part Two.
Feb. 19  Black Elk’s Great Vision
      B.E.S., Chs I-III
Feb. 24  Boyhood on the Plains
      BES, Chs. IV-VI
Feb. 26  The Time of Crazy Horse and Custer
      BES, Chs. VII-IX (Video “Little Big Horn”)
      SPRING BREAK
Mar. 10  Fears and The Ritualization of Vision
      B.E.S., Chs. X-XIV
Mar. 12  Vision, Reenactment and Healing
      B.E.S., Chs. XV-XVIII
Mar. 17  The Messiah and the Ghost Dance
      B.E.S., Chs. XIX-XXII
Mar. 19  Wounded Knee and Beyond
      B.E.S. Chs. XXIII-end.
      TAKE HOME EXAM #2

II. Cultural Dimensions of Healing
   Southwest: Navaho Chantways

Mar. 24  Medicine, Meaning and Healing
      Read: Sandner, Chs. 1&2
      Read: Sandner, Ch. 3
Mar. 31  Navaho Religion: The Whole
      Read: Sandner, Ch. 4
Apr. 02  Healing & the Return to Origins
      Read: Sandner, Ch. 6
      Video. "At the Threshold" M.10
Apr. 07  The Death-Rebirth Experience
      Read: Sandner, Ch. 8

III. The Ecological Component: Sub-Polar

Apr. 09  The Koyukon Peoples
      Read: Nelson, Ch. 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read:</th>
<th>Video:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Nature as the Watchful World</td>
<td>Nelson, Ch. 2</td>
<td>MPTR #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Powers of Earth, Air and Water</td>
<td>Nelson, Chs. 3 &amp; 6</td>
<td>MPTR #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>The Predatory Mammals</td>
<td>Nelson, Ch. 9</td>
<td>MPTR #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 23</td>
<td>From Girl to Woman…Apache</td>
<td>Sullivan, Ch. 6</td>
<td>“In the Space…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Talamantez</td>
<td>Sunrise Dance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>The Large Mammals</td>
<td>Nelson, Ch. 10</td>
<td>MPTR #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>Koyukon Principles &amp; Practices</td>
<td>Nelson, Chs. 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>MPTR #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>