New Course Request

Indiana University

Check Appropriate Boxes:

- Undergraduate credit [x]
- Graduate credit [ ]
- Professional credit [ ]

1. School/Division: Liberal Arts
2. Academic Subject Code: REL
3. Course Number: 367
4. Instructor: Flynn
5. Course Title: American Indian Religions

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2009
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes [x] No [ ]
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes [ ] No [x]
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:

   American Indian Religions is a course designed to explore the religious traditions of the Indian tribes of the Americas with a focus on the tribes of North America and specifically on.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 0 or Variable from to
13. Estimated enrollment: 40 of which percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: Once a year
15. Will this course be required for majors? No
16. Justification for new course: Addenda
17. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes
18. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
19. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: [Signature]
Date: 8/19/08

Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 11/10/08

Dean

University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

University Enrollment Services Final—White: Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue: School/Division—Yellow: Department/Division—Pink: University Enrollment Services Advance—White
American Indian Religions

Instructor: Johnny P. Flynn
Office Cav. 335
Phone: 274-8356
Email: jopf Flynn@iupui.edu

Classroom: TBA
Meeting Times: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

American Indian Religions, is a course designed for students to explore the history and complexity of the numerous religions of native North America. The course will begin with a study of geographic considerations that give rise to many of the theological constructs of American Indian religions, explore the relationship between ritual, ceremony and the natural world, and then examine the impact of Euro-American settlement on the indigenous religious traditions of the Americas. In the course of our study we will examine specific traditions such as the Lakota, Dine, Kiowa, Chumash, Potawatomi, as well as other Indian nations of North America. We will encounter the ancient beliefs of Native Americans as well as the contemporary religious landscape of Indians in Indiana. Native American religious systems changed as a result of contact with other people and other religions, and we shall examine the impact of those contacts and influences on the historic religious beliefs of native people. The course will also explore the current revival of Native American Religious beliefs and the impact that revival has had on non-Indian belief and religious practice.

Course Objectives and the Principles of Undergraduate Education

Students who are diligent in their study, work and complete the assignments and attend class, by the end of the semester can expect to . . .

- Develop methods to enable the student to study American Indian religions from an historical and objective point of view.
- Examine in-depth several American Indian religious traditions including the Indian Nations native to Indiana.
- Study the concepts of the sacred and the profane as it applies to Native American belief systems and worldviews.
- Study the concepts of sacred geography and the use of sacred space in Native American rituals and mythology.
- Examine the impact of European and American settlement on the religious beliefs and practice of Native Americans including the effects on Indiana's Indian population.
• Survey the religious revivals of Native Americans in the recent past. We will also examine the reasons for the revivals and the consequences in the relationship between the Indian nations and the American society's perception of Native American religions.

Course Requirements and Guidelines

Members of the class will be responsible for all the material presented in the readings and lectures. Attendance in class will be counted toward the final grade and excessive tardiness will be counted as absences. There will be two in-class examinations and a final examination scheduled, time To Be Announced. All examinations will consist of short answer identifications and slightly longer essays, all of which will be drawn from the readings and lectures. In addition, a 10-12 page paper will be required, the subject of the paper to be discussed in class. The student's ability to comprehend and analyze the readings, lectures, and outside research will be emphasized in grading all examinations and writing assignments. Each in-class examination and short research paper will count for twenty (20%) percent each of the final grade, for a total of sixty percent (60%). The final examination will count for thirty percent (30%) of the final grade, and ten percent (10%) will be assessed based on the student's attendance, participation in class, and additional assignments issued at the discretion of the instructor.

Research Paper: Each student will choose an American Indian tribe of North America and write a 10-12 page paper using the following guidelines:

• The introduction to the paper must include the name(s) for the tribe, where it is located, and a discussion of ecological determinants; rivers, lakes, mountains, or other prominent or influential geographic features.

• Each paper must include a short discussion of the tribe’s language and how it relates to other languages of native North America.

• The general subject of the paper will be to choose some aspect of the tribe's religious system (ritual, ceremony, myth, doctrine) and provide a description of the phenomena and how it works in the tradition.

• Each paper shall be footnoted where appropriate, and must include a bibliography of all works used or cited (including internet sites) and a map locating the tribe within a larger geographic context. Students are encouraged to include detailed information with the map(s)

Required Reading

Sherman Alexie. The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
Vine Deloria Jr. God is Red
Gilbert L. Wilson. Buffalo Bird Woman’s Garden
Peter Nabokov. Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places
Course Schedule: The following is a list of the course content by scheduled date of presentation. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete subjects, or change the date that some subjects may be presented due to circumstances beyond the control of the instructor. It must be said that Native American religions are living traditions and therefore subjects of interest to this class may develop at any time during the course.


Week Three: The Ritual Cycles, Calendars and Ceremonies, Individual Rites of Passage. Wilson, Introduction and Chapter 1; Deloria 149-184.

Week Four: September 11-13; Myth and the Concepts of the Individual and the Community. Deloria 61-96; Nabokov, 73-129.


Week Six: Review and In-class examination. Discussion of paper topics.

Week Seven: Power of Dreams, Shamanism, Curing and Healing. Deloria 23-60; Nabakov 149-206.


Week Nine: Native American Responses to Europeans. Deloria 203-236; Start Reading Alexie.

Week Ten: Missions, Missionaries, and changing concepts of God. Deloria 257-297; Nabakov 228-283.

Week Eleven: Review and Second In-class examination.

Week Twelve: Messiahs, Prophets, and Pretenders. Hand-outs; Continue reading Alexie.

Week Thirteen: Pilgrims, Pequods, and the First Thanksgiving. Handouts and Readings for paper; Finish reading Alexie.


Week Fifteen: Women in Native American religions. Handouts
Week Sixteen: Review for final examination and research paper due.

Paper due the last day of class. Final examination: TBA

University Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of the work of others without properly crediting the actual source of the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, entire articles, music or pictures. Using the work of other students, with or without their permission, is plagiarism if there is not indication of the original work. Plagiarism, a form of cheating, is a serious offense and will be severely punished. When plagiarism is suspected, the instructor will inform the student of the charge; the student has the right to respond to the allegations. If a student is charged with plagiarism, procedures outlined in the IUPUI "Student Rights and Responsibilities" statement will be followed. Students have the right to appeal any charge to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Getting a Good Grade

Students often ask me how they "can get a good grade." The simple answer is contained in these three words, "come to class." Students who regularly attend class are aware of the changes, additions, and corrections in the course content. Do the readings before you come to class and the lectures will have more meaning. Take notes in class. There is no need to transcribe a verbatim transcript of my lectures, but an informed and well-thought set of notes will be something you can refer to long after this class is over. Do the assignments and take the tests when they are scheduled. Study for the tests and make sure to attend class when the examinations are discussed. And if you cannot make it to class on the date of the review, or on the date of the examination, be sure to contact me and let me know in advance or as soon as possible so that other arrangements can be made. Finally, if you are having trouble with the content of the lectures or readings, ask me. You can ask in class, chances are someone in class is having the same difficulty. I am committed to getting you through the rocky spots in this class. Most problems are simply a question away from resolution.

Educational Services

The IUPUI campus has several offices designed to assist students with special needs. Services are available at any of the offices listed below:

Bepko Learning Center: http://uc.iupui.edu/learningcenter/ Phone # 317-274-4818

Adaptive Educational Services: http://www.iupui.edu/~divrsity/aes/
Joseph T. Taylor Hall (UC), Room 137
Tel: (317) 274 3241
TDD/TTY: (317) 278 2050

Counseling and Psychological Services: http://life.iupui.edu/caps/counseling.html
Phone # 317-274-2548, Union Building 418
Addenda

Justification for New Course Request

American Indian Religions

American Indian Religions is a new course request from the Department of Religious Studies as part of a group of courses designed to enhance our role in the development of an American Indian studies minor planned for the IUPUI campus. In August 2008, the department hired Dr. Johnny P. Flynn as an Assistant Professor and the new Director of American Indian Programs at IUPUI. Previously Dr. Flynn taught Native American Religions as an adjunct and Instructor at the 100 level as a Special Topics course but feels it is more appropriate and valuable for students as a permanent course at the 300 level.

Native American; or American Indian? Although the name “Native American” has gained credence as the politically correct term to identify the indigenous people of the Americas, it also causes considerable confusion as to exactly what the term includes. For instance, does it include native born Americans? As an example, in an effort to avoid confusion over what is meant by the term “Native American,” the Indiana State legislature in 2005 established the “Native American Indian Commission,” after a debate over use of alternative terms such as; indigenous, aboriginal, prehistoric, pre-contact, and so on.

Since 1800, when Indiana Territory was organized as a region distinct in the Northwest Territory, it was recognized as the “Land of the Indians,” or Indiana. Most, if not all, Indian tribes in the Americas recognize the term “American Indian” as inclusive of their distinct tribal identities. In fact, “Indian Country” is a legal usage by all tribes in the United States to define their sovereign boundaries. American Indian is what Indians use; while “Native American” is what non-Indians use. To avoid confusion, American Indian is what the Department of Religious Studies will use.

American Indian Religions will be established as a permanent course at the 300 level for students to encounter the religions of Indian people of North America. A focus of the course will be the Indian tribes of the state of Indiana; their religion, history, and contributions to the history of the state.
New Course Request
Completion Instructions

General: Complete all items requested on the form.

Item 2: Academic Subject is the same as department code. The name has been changed in order to distinguish academic subject from administrative department or division name.

Item 3: The proposed course number must receive clearance from University Enrollment Services. (Bloomington telephone 855-2218)

Item 4: The instructor who will be responsible for teaching the course initially.

Item 5: Check the proposed course title for clarity and brevity. List the title as it should appear in the bulletin or catalog. An abbreviated title may be suggested or one will be determined by University Enrollment Services.

Item 6: Indicate the semester that the course will first be offered, using semester names rather than calendar dates. At least interim (School/Division) approval must be processed by the campus Schedule of Classes deadline for the semester of first offering.

Item 7: Check that the proposed hours of credit meet the standard number of instructional minutes required. If they do not, other rationale should be noted.

Item 8: If S-F grading is elected, regular letter grades (A-D) are not permitted. If S-F grading is not elected, “S” grades are not permitted.

Item 9: Variable title approval will normally be given only for courses whose official title is “Research in . . . . .” “Independent Study in . . . . .” etc., with variability being used to specify special topics. Variable title permission is only required one time for each course, and specific variable titles do not require formal approval. Variable titles, when used, must contain the basic part of the official title (Research, Independent Study, etc.), followed by a colon, followed by the specific subject of the section. For example, “Readings in History” could be approved for variable titles and become “Readings: Revolutionary War”. Variable titles are used for recording purposes to replace the official title and are processed by submitting them on Schedule Copy forms to the campus scheduling officer. Variable titles are used at the section level, and are not variable by student. Variable titles need not be used even if the course has been approved for them.

Item 10: Check the proposed Bulletin description. It should not exceed 50 words and should begin by listing all prerequisites. Prerequisites (up to a limit of four) will be extracted from the description for computer recording.

Item 11: Indicate the contact hours that the class meets each week, in a regular semester format, in a lecture-type arrangement. The number of contact hours per week should be specified with one decimal place, e.g. 3.0.

Item 12: Indicate the contact hours that the class meets each week, in a regular semester format, in non-lecture settings, such as laboratory, discussion, or activity meetings. The number of contact hours per week should be specified with one decimal place, e.g., 3.0.

Routing Instructions

1. Forward all copies of the form, without separating them, and attachments to the appropriate Dean or Curriculum Committee Chairman.

2. After School/Division approval of the course, detach the back copy of the completed form and send it to University Enrollment Services (Poplars 612, Bloomington), without attachments for preliminary processing. Forward the remaining four copies of the form, still bound in a set, with attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President’s Office.

3. After Chancellor/Vice President approval is received, forward the forms, still bound in a set, to University Enrollment Services for final processing.

4. After the forms are signed and final processing has been completed, the Chancellor/Vice-President, School/Division, and Department/Division copies will be returned to the campus Dean of Faculties for distribution. Attachments not necessary to interpret information requested on the forms, such as outlines and reading lists, will also be returned. Statements that the course has been circulated to all campuses, with a 30 day period for comments, are required before processing can be completed and will be kept on file in University Enrollment Services.