

New Course Request

Indiana University

INDIANAPOLIS Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit Graduate credit Professional credit

1. School/Division LIBERAL ARTS 2. Academic Subject Code REL
3. Course Number R368 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services) 4. Instructor FLYNN
5. Course Title WOMEN IN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIONS
Recommended Abbreviation (Optional)

(Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): SPRING 2010
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes No X
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes No X

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: WOMEN IN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIONS IS A COURSE DESIGNED TO EXAMINE THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIONS AND PRACTICE AND THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE FEMININE ASPECTS IN THEIR WORLD VIEWS

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: 25 of which percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: Bi ANNUAL Will this course be required for majors? NO
15. Justification for new course: ADDENDA

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? YES
17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.
19. 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 Chair/Division Director

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

Date
Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Date
Chancellor/Vice-President

Date
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.

Women in American Indian Religions

Instructor: Johnny P. Flynn
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Phone: 274-8356
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Classroom: TBA
Meeting Times: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

Women in American Indian Religions is an upper division course designed for the student to research the roles of women and articulations of the feminine in American Indian religions, principally those of North and Central America. The class will include studies of women and the feminine in American Indian religions through the expressions of the creator, ritual, ceremony, sacred geography and sacred space, myth, and the experiential dimensions of religion for both men and women. The structure of the course will be lectures, discussions, readings, and multi-media presentations of the roles of women and expressions of the feminine in American Indian religions.

Course Objectives and Principles of Undergraduate Education

Students who take this course and complete the readings and the assignments by the end of the semester can expect to:

- Gain an understanding of the depth and breadth of the feminine principles in the religious beliefs and practices of selected American Indian traditions.
- Gain an understanding of the vital importance of women in American Indian myth, ritual, music, dance, and other forms of religious expression in selected tribal traditions.
- Understand the changes that occurred in the roles of women and expressions of the feminine as a result of Euro-American intrusions into Indian Country.
- Encounter and explore the influences of American Indian religions in defining the revival of traditions of the goddess and the feminine among tribal societies and the dominant society
- Encounter American Indian women writers and their ideas and influence in the contemporary religious revivals among the Indian nations.

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 **one in-class examination 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. As part of the research paper students will give a **short presentation of their research 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.

In class presentations: As part of their research paper, each student will develop a short 10-15 minutes presentation to be shared in-class during the last weeks of the course. Students will be expected to address specific topics during the presentation and are free to use music, pictures, or other forms of audio-visual support during their presentation.

Required Reading

Brian Swann and Arnold Krupat, I Tell You Now: Autobiographical Essays by Native American Writers

Winona LaDuke, All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life

Paula Gunn Allen, Grandmothers of the Light

Stacey Alaimo, Undomesticated Ground: Recasting Nature as Feminist Space

Mary Tall Mountain, The Light on the Tent Wall

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 women and the feminine in American Indian religions come from living traditions and therefore subjects of interest to this class may develop at any time during the course.

Week One: Introduction, class expectations, terms and vocabulary, issues and theories in the study of feminine and nature. Readings: Alaimo, Introduction; Allen, preface to page 24; Swann and Krupat, 187-194.

Week Two: Creation, birth, death, rebirth. Swann and Krupat, 3-13; Allen, 25-92; Tall Mountain, 5-21.

Week Three: Women and the goddess in myth and ritual; principles of the feminine in faith and practice. Allen. 105-158; Alaimo, 27-62;

Week Four: Sacred Geography and Sacred Space; Wombs of the Earth. Allen 163-233; Swann and Krupat, 57-63; Alaimo, 87-107.

Week Five: The feminine, the masculine and androgyny. Alaimo, 108-129; Tall Mountain 81-91; LaDuke, 11-45.

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

Week Seven: *Women and the Goddess in Healing*. LaDuke, 49-92; Tall Mountain, 45-63.

Week Eight: Anthropology, archaeology, ethnology and native women. Swann and Krupat, 155-184, 251-261; Alaimo 133-187.

Week Nine: Women, the feminine, and the imposition of linear thought and history. LaDuke, 97-162.

Week Ten: Rebirth of the Goddess in American Indian traditions. LaDuke, 167-200; Tall Mountain, 23-44.

Week Eleven: Native American Women and spirituality. Readings assigned in class.

Week Twelve: Native women and the feminine in the New Age. Readings assigned in class.

Week Thirteen: In class presentations.

Week Fourteen: In class presentations

Week Fifteen: In class presentations and review for the final examination.

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

Women in American Indian Religions

Women in American Indian Religions is designed as an upper division course for students to encounter the religious beliefs and practices of women in the American Indian religions, and the feminine aspect of the doctrines, rituals, and sacred history of those traditions. The new course is part of a cluster of courses being established as part of the development of an American Indian studies minor and the newly developed American Indian programs here on the IUPUI campus.

Statistics show that in American Indian societies in the North America, women make up approximately 53% of the population, live longer (an average of ten years), suffer from more violence than their non-Indian counterparts (six times the average) and yet are virtually ignored in their primary roles as “keepers of the traditions.” American Indian societies tend to be matrilineal, matrilocal, and the feminine plays a primary role in the articulation of the creator or deities of American Indian Religions.

Women in American Indian Religions will expose students to various American Indian tribes and nations and focus on the role of women historically, expressions of the feminine in myth, ritual, doctrine, and examine the religious experiences of women through the use of American Indian women writers. The course will examine the historical and contemporary expressions of American Indian societies and consider why women and the feminine have been ignored as the primary reason those societies have survived into the modern era.

Students will be expected to produce a research paper which will add to their understanding of the role of women in religion, but particularly the role and status of women in American Indian societies. The Department of Religious Studies feels that this course will be a vital component in our offerings to students at IUPUI.