

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 2550	Course Title: North American Native Literatures	Date of Offering: WINTER 2017
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Course Instructor: M Nandorfy	Course Format: lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Several genres will be studied, including novel, short story, essay, poetry, graphic novel, feature and documentary film, taking into account as a central theoretical problem that Native storytelling does not conform to European categories of representation. Some of the topics to be examined will include: the theoretical and political implications of studying Native American literatures as a minoritized and racially determined category; modes of Native storytelling and Native responses to colonial policies, postcolonial theory, and strategies of decolonization; the ongoing legacy of residential schools; comparative study of Native American and Euroamerican epistemologies; land claims; and the colonial invention of Indianness and the paradoxes of cultural identity; as well as the significance of geopolitical borders (Mexico/US and US/Canada) and less visible borders like the one separating the Arctic from Southern Canada, and Natives from Euramericans within national borders. Special attention will be paid to forms of political resistance in relation to environmental and other human rights.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Short Response Paper	15%
Take-Home Midterm Exam	30%
Exam design	15%
Final Exam	40%

Tentative Texts and/or Resources Required:

Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*
Highway, Tomson. *Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout*
King, Thomas. *The Back of the Turtle*
Robinson, Eden. *Monkey Beach*
Silko, Leslie. *Ceremony*

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

Average weekly out-of-class workload for students amounts to five hours of reading,

and three hours of writing and/or exam preparation.

Response paper and final exam design assignment will consist of 600 to 900 words each; the midterm take-home exam will total not more than 2500 words. A final 2 hour exam will be scheduled.

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 20th/21st century and Canadian Literature.