

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-SUPERIOR**  
**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE:** FNS 230 First Nations Myths and Legends

**CLASS:** Spring 2006, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  
Main 303

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chip Beal, Main 230  
Office phone: (715) 394-8297  
Home phone: (218) 428-2325  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday:  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
E-mail: [abeal@uwsuper.edu](mailto:abeal@uwsuper.edu)

**COURSE**  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Native American Myths and Legends will introduce the oral tradition of Native American people. The course will explore the traditional stories and legends that have been told by native people for generations. The students will understand the meaning that they provided the past generations of people and how their message is carried into the modern world.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To appreciate the value and timelessness of storytelling for Native Americans.
2. To analyze the content, structure and meaning of legends and stories.
3. To demonstrate that these ancient stories have meaning for a modern audience through presentations to the class and a creative semester project.
4. To broaden the student's base of knowledge of Indian people and their stories, to encourage personal interpretation.
5. To help students understand the holistic world view as opposed to the Euro-centric linear world view and how this difference makes Native American oral history/story-telling more understandable.

**REQUIRED**

**TEXTS:** Spider Woman's Granddaughters' Paula Gunn Allen  
American Indian Myths and Legends' Richard Erdoes & Alfonso Ortiz

**EVALUATION:**

1. Attendance/Participation 20%
2. Mid-Term/Final 50%
3. Project 20%
4. Pop Quizzes 10 %

**PROCEDURE:** This course will be taught by lecture (storytelling) and discussion over assigned reading material. Each Tuesday reaction papers will be due for the stories read and discussed for the previous week. Reaction papers will include the following: Why the stories were told. How they are similar or different from other sections of stories. Explanation of which story was enjoyed the most and an explanation of why.

There will be a semester project assigned that will include the telling of a story by each student. The story may either be a family, personal/cultural, or other cultural story chosen by the student that is approved by the instructor before telling. These stories will be told during a specially designated time outside of regular class.

There will be a midterm and a final examination.

Pop quizzes will be given when and if required for optimal class involvement.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Class Cancellations: When weather conditions are dangerous, students will be informed via the media about class cancellations. Students should not call Campus Safety.

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs: Students' sincerely held religious beliefs should be reasonably accommodated with respect to scheduling all examinations and other academic requirements. Students should inform the instructor of these needs *at the start* of the semester.

Disabilities Accommodation: Adaptations of methods, materials or testing will be made to accommodate educational participation. Students should inform the instructor *at the start* of the semester.

Bloodborne Pathogens: Students who may be exposed to human blood and certain bodily fluids through classroom activities, practicums, or internships must be provided training and information. Contact Carol Lindberg, Campus Industrial Hygienist, Ext. 8073 for more information.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week

1. Overview/Introduction  
Oral Tradition-Cycles  
Spiderwoman's Granddaughters pp. 1-27
2. Warriors: pp. 27-125
3. Warriors cont.
4. The Casualties pp. 127-188
5. The Resistance pp. 197-256
6. **Creation**-Human American Indian Myths and Legends pp. 1-69  
Rabbit Boy, Creations of First Man and Woman, The Well Baked, Man, The White Buffalo Woman, The Vision Quest
7. **Creation-World** The Jicarilla Genesis, Old Man Coyote Makes the World, How the Sioux Came To Be, Children of the Sun
8. Mid-Term Exam
9. **Nature Stories**-Sun Creation, The Hopi Boy and the Sun, A Gust of Wind, Daughter of the Sun, Grandmother Spider Steals the Sun, Little Brother Snares the Sun, The Theft of Light, Deer Hunter and Corn Maiden
10. **Heroes** cap fights the Water Monster, How Mosquitoes Came To Be, Son of Light Kills the Monster, Coyote Kills the Giant, Legend of Devil's Tower
11. **Counting Coup**-Two Bullets and Two Arrows, The Warrior Maiden, Tatanka Iyotake's Dancing Horse
12. **Love Stories** Legend of the Flute, Teeth in the Wrong Places, Why Mole Loves Underground, The Industrious Daughter Who Would Not Marry, Coyote's Strawberry, Men and Women Try Living Apart
13. **Trickster** Coyote, Iktome and the Rock, Coyote and Wasichu, The Bluebird and Coyote, How Coyote got his Cunning
14. **Animal Stories**-The Great Race, Why Owl has Big Eyes, The Dogs Hold an Election, Butterflies, The Neglectful Mother
15. **Ghost Stories**-Two Ghostly Lovers, Journey to the Skeleton House, The Transformed Grandmother, The Ghost Wife.
16. Final Examination

