

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-SUPERIOR
SYLLABUS

COURSE: FNS/ENGL 304 First Nations Literature

CLASS: Spring Semester (Three Credits)
Location: McCaskill 130 MWF 9-10

INSTRUCTOR: Gary W. Johnson
101 Sundquist Ext. 8132
Office Hours MWF 2-3 T-TH 1-3
Email Gjohnson@uwsuper.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

First Nations Literature will examine literature by and about American Indian people. The students will be made aware of how this literature differs from traditional western literature in content and theme. The class will also explore the traditional stories that the contemporary American Indian Literature draws from for its source.

RATIONALE:

American Indian Literature is finally coming into its own and being recognized for its own literary contribution. It reflects the society that it comes from and forms an understanding of a people that have become almost extinct in the eyes of the modern world. American Indian Literature is a powerful genre that can stand on its own and is no longer required to be the feather and drum "Indian stories" that the western world expects. This course will provide the student with an understanding of where this literature comes from and what it has to offer a contemporary audience.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will be able to express how American Indian Literature differs from traditional western literature in form, content, and style.
2. The student will be able to explain the link of contemporary American Indian Literature with the traditional stories that they derive from.
3. The student will be able to express the contemporary themes expressed in the assigned readings of the class through class discussion and in written form through a paper and exams.
4. The student will express personal meaning derived from the class through a semester project presented to the class.

REQUIRED

TEXT:

Last Standing Woman, Winona LaDuke
The Sharpest Sight, Louis Owens
The Lone Ranger and Tonto a Fistfight in Heaven, Alexie Sherman
Walking the Rez Road, Jim Northrop
Ceremony, Leslie Marmon Silko
Love Medicine, Louise Erdrich

ADDITIONAL READINGS: Handouts of short stories and poetry

- PROCEDURE:**
1. Class Discussion/lecture
 2. Handouts/selected readings
 3. Semester project
 4. Movies
 5. Guest speakers

- EVALUATION:**
1. Attendance/participation 10%
 2. Semester Project 20%
 3. Reaction papers 20%
 4. Tests 50%

Accommodations policy can be viewed at

[:http://www.uwsuper.edu/provost/StdInfo-SyllabusAtt.pdf](http://www.uwsuper.edu/provost/StdInfo-SyllabusAtt.pdf).

COURSE OUTLINE

Ceremony

The Sharpest Sight

Test

Walking the Rez Road

Lone Ranger and Tonto: A Fistfight in Heaven

Test

Last Standing Woman

Love Medicine

Test

There will also be additional material within each of these units, i.e. handouts, speakers, movies, etc. for which you will be responsible.