

Winter 2009; UCSD

Alan Lechusza Aquallo– Lecturer

ETHN 111 Native American Literature

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 4:50pm

SEQUO 147

Office phone: 858/534-2136

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm (other times by appointment only) in Social Science Building Room 232

Course Description:

This course analyzes Native American written and oral traditions. Students will read chronicles and commentaries on published texts, historic speeches, trickster narratives, oratorical and prophetic tribal epics, and will delve into the methodological problems posed by tribal literature in translation. Students will also perform critical readings of different media agents (Native/non-Native) and popular culture to construct/deconstruct representations of Native identity both historic and contemporary.

Course Schedule:

Lectures begin – Tuesday January 6, 2009

Midterm – Thursday February 17, 2009

Lectures end – Thursday March 12, 2009

Final Exam – Tuesday March 17, 2009 3 – 6pm

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

In order to gain the most from this course all requirements must be met. Any missed assignment will result in a failing grade, which includes attendance and participation. Late work will not be accepted. You need not inform me if you will be absent from a lecture, however you are still responsible for all the information/work and discussion information offered during class time. All assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Again, no late work will be accepted. Grades will be calculated as such:

- 1) Attendance and active class participation **10%**
- 2) Literary Exercises:
 - Assignment # 1: Due date: January 22, 2009 (3rd week) **10%**
 - Assignment # 2: Due date: February 5, 2009 (5th week) **10%**
 - Assignment #3: Due date: March 3, 2009 (9th week) **10%**
- 3) Midterm: Due date: Thursday February 17, 2009 (7th week) **30%**
- 4) Final: Due date: Tuesday March 17, 2009 (11th/Finals week) **30%**

Course Policy:

- Always bring the text(s) with which we are currently working from to class.
- All readings must be completed before class.
- Make sure to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and/or any other materials selected for use.
- All written work must be typed in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
- For proper paper format and citation guidelines, please refer to an MLA stylebook.
- Paginate all work and staple all work in the upper left-hand corner.
- Proof read all your work before turning in your assignments.
- All assignments must be turned into me in person.
- Make sure to turn off all phones and pagers at the start of class and they should remain silent throughout the duration of class.

Reading and Exam Schedule:

There will be general discussion in class about the readings in which you are encouraged to participate. As stated previously, please be prepared with the readings before class meetings. We will relate current Native news items and events to the readings as a relevant technique for the expansion of our critical analysis and understanding of historic/contemporary Native literature.

January 6 - 8: Introduction/Overview, Critical Concepts and Literary/Artistic Theory

January 8 - 22: Selected Chapters from *Literature of the American Indians*

January 27 – February 5: Selected Chapters from *That's what She Said*

February 10 – 12, 2009: Reservation Blues

Midterm Due: Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009 – Reservation Blues

February 19 – March 3: Selected Chapters from *Toward a Native American Critical Theory*

March 5 – 12: *Ceremony*

Final Exam Due: Tuesday March 17, 2009 - Ceremony

Assignments and Examinations:

Students will complete three written assignments based upon prompts presented for each reading completed. These papers will be between 3 – 5 pages in length using the above stated criteria for the assignment. No late work will be accepted.

The Midterm and Final exams will follow this similar outline with expanded prompts and a 5 – 7 page limit for each exam. As stated previously, no late work will be accepted.

Text Book List:

Please review this list very carefully!

1. Toward a Native American Critical Theory

By Elvira Pulitano

Published by University of Nebraska Press, 2003

ISBN 0803237375, 9780803237377

2. That's what She Said: Contemporary Poetry and Fiction by Native American Women

By Rayna Green

Published by Indiana University Press, 1984

ISBN 0253203384

3. Literature of the American Indians: Views and Interpretations: A Gathering of Indian Memories, Symbolic Contexts and Literary Criticism

By Abraham Chapman

Publisher: New American Library Trade (March 1975)

ISBN-10: 0452004357

ISBN-13: 978-0452004351

4. Reservation Blues (For Midterm)

by Sherman Alexie

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing; 1 edition (September 1, 1996)

ISBN-10: 0446672351

ISBN-13: 978-0446672351

5. Ceremony (For Final Exam)

By Leslie Marmon Silko

New York: Viking, 1977

Texts are also on Reserve in the Library

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.