

PALOMAR COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR  
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

*AIS*  
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: 150 American Indian Philosophy and Religion

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

The principles of American Indian philosophy and religious rites practiced prior to extensive European contacts with North American tribes, and the subsequent impact of European cultures on American Indian philosophy and religion.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Successful students will

1. Identify and utilize basic religious and philosophical terms and concepts.
2. Extract and apply basic concepts and beliefs from mythology, folk tales and legends to American Indian mythology.
3. Develop a structural model of religious institutions utilizing cultural concepts of space, time and place, gender, and socio-economic constructs.
4. Compare and contrast the cosmological world views of major North American tribes with those of major Christian and non-Christian traditions.

5. Evaluate contributions of Native American religious systems to modern Western Civilization.
6. Identify and analyze gender differences and/or compatibility in men and women in priestly and shamanistic roles.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. Introduction to the Course
- II. Major Philosophical/Religious Concepts Defined
  - A. Etymology of Terms
  - B. God(s); Goddesses
  - C. Creation--Myth
  - D. Time/Space
  - E. Functional vs. Theological
  - F. Deism vs. Theology
  - G. Morality vs. Ethics
  - H. Mythology, Folk Tale, Legend
    1. Archetypal Imagery
    2. Symbol vs. Sign
    3. Prototypes of Myth
      - a. Origin--Creation
      - b. Cultural Hero/Heroine
      - c. Trickster
- III. Eight Universal Themes in Indian Thought
  - A. Power of Words
  - B. Dreams
  - C. Animism
  - D. Dualism
  - E. Otiose vs. Eminent Deities
  - F. Four Directions
  - G. Anonymity
  - H. Foreign Gods
- IV. Shamanism
  - A. Etymology of Word
  - B. Concepts of Shamanism
    1. Uniqueness of female and male practitioners
    2. Healers
    3. Chanters
    4. Diviners
    5. Priests
  - C. Relationship of Myth to Medical Practice
    1. Use of Herbs, Hallucinogens
    2. Role of Ritual
    3. Dream Psychoanalysis
  - D. Relationship of socio-economic constraints on practice of shamanism
- V. Vision Quest and Dreams
- VI. Music and Dance

- VII. Southwest Indians
  - A. Pueblo Rites
    - 1. Mythology
      - a. Of Origin
      - b. Of Creation
      - c. Women's Rituals
      - d. Socio-economic Reciprocity
    - 2. Kachinas
      - a. Liturgical Calendar
      - b. Duties and Responsibilities
  - B. Navajos
    - 1. Mythology
      - a. Of Origin
      - b. Of Creation
      - c. Women's Rituals
      - d. Socio-economic Reciprocity
    - 2. Chants
- VIII. Plains Tribes (Sioux, Blackfeet, Cree)
  - A. Mythology
    - 1. Of Origin
    - 2. Of Creation
    - 3. Women's Rituals
    - 4. Socio-economic Reciprocity
  - B. Sun Dance
- IX. California Tribes (Yurok, Luiseno)
  - A. Mythology
    - 1. Of Origin
    - 2. Of Creation
  - B. Death Concepts
  - C. Knowledge-Power
  - D. Women's Rituals
- X. Northwest (Tlingit, Haida)
  - A. Mythology
  - B. Potlatch
  - C. Women's Rituals
  - D. Socio-economic Reciprocity
- XI. Mayan
- XII. Relationship of the American Indian Thought System to Western Thought Systems
  - A. Linear Thought
  - B. Circular Thought
  - C. Humor/Play
  - D. Time/Space
- XIII. Major Tenets of Christianity
  - A. Similar Tenets Found Between Christianity and Major Indian Religious Movements
    - 1. Dying God Motif
    - 2. Angels/Saints/Spirits
    - 3. Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
    - 4. Prayer
  - B. Dissimilar Tenets
    - 1. Sin/Redemption
    - 2. Individual Relationship to an All-Powerful Deity
    - 3. Salvation

- C. Comparisons of Women and Age Factors, Specifically Why Age and Gender are Important or Not Important in Duties, Privileges, and Responsibilities
  - 1. In Roman Catholicism
  - 2. In Puritanism
  - 3. In Baptists
  - 4. In Major Tribes
    - a. Iroquois
    - b. Cherokee
    - c. Cheyenne
    - d. Hopi
    - e. Hupa

- XIV. Messianic Revitalization Movements
  - A. Retrospective
  - B. Progressive

- XV. Peyote
  - A. Origin
  - B. Validity
  - C. Use of Peyote
  - D. Purpose
  - E. Native American Church

- XVI. Conclusion

**REQUIRED READING:**

Bowden, Henry Warner. American Indians and Christian Missions, Studies in Cultural Conflict. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981.

Neihardt, John G. Black Elk Speaks. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988.

Niethammer, Carolyn. Daughter of the Earth. New York: Collier Books, 1978.

Sullivan, Lawrence E., editor. Native American Religions, North America. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1989.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Beck, Peggy V., Walters, Anna Lee and Francisco, Nia. The Sacred, Ways of Knowledge, Sources of Life. Tsaile, AZ: Navajo Community College Press, 1992.

Bierhorst, John. The Mythology of North America. New York: William Morrow and Co., 1985.

Capps, Walter H., ed. Seeing with a Native Eye. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. God Is Red. New York: Dell, 1973.

Hirschfelder, Arlene. The Encyclopedia of Native American Religions. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1992.

Tedlock, Dennis and Tedlock, Barbara. Teaching from the American Earth: Indian Religion and Philosophy. New York: Liveright Publishing Co., 1975. (279 pages)

Vecsey, Christopher, ed. Handbook of American Indian Religious Freedom. New York: Crossroad, 1991.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

- A. Write their own myth (creation, hero or trickster), 7-10 pages.
- B. Book critique, 3-5 pages.
- C. One-page response for each video and film seen

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Students will read and study the text and lecture notes. It is strongly recommended that they read texts listed under suggested readings in addition to their text. Creation of their own myth and the book critique require additional work outside the classroom.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes  No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):hether

Suggested percentages:

Essay exams	50%
Myth and Book Review	40%
Discussion	10%
Total:	100%

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit:

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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