DIVISION COURSE SYLLABUS

Division  Humanities  Course Prefix and Number  ENGL 2233

Course Title  Native American Literature

Semester and Year Submitted  UPDATED SPRING 2015  Credit Hours  3

Prepared by  Literature Committee – Updated: Dianne Krob

Hours Per Week:  Class 3  Lab 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
A survey of the literature of the Native American from Pre-Columbian time through the present including poetry, fiction, oratory, biography, legend, and essay. May be taken as credit for Humanities General Education Requirements. Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 or equivalent.

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Text(s):

  Title  Nothing but the Truth: An Anthology of Native American Literature
  Author  Purdy, John L. and James Ruppert
  Publisher  Prentice Hall
  Copyright Date  2001
  ISBN#  0-13-116424
  Reading Level  12

Supplemental Materials: (other books, audio visual aids, etc.)

ALTERNATE TEXT: None
RATIONALE

In keeping with Rose State College’s objective of meeting students’ needs, Native American Literature introduces students to an important part of American culture. This course provides a unique literary experience rich in cultural and often tragic historical contexts. Perhaps more importantly, this course aids the student to look realistically at himself in his search for self-awareness and to more fully understand the past and present in their relationship to the future.

Expected Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize and discuss literary figures, their works, and their contributions to the field of Native American literature.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key authors, works, and the rich literary history of Native Americans; relate texts to the cultural, historical, and social context in which they were produced.
3. Analyze the authors’ major themes, purposes, and literary techniques.
4. Evaluate how social, religious, and economic factors influenced literature and describe how the authors reflected the values and attitudes of their times.
5. Analyze and debate the value of earlier Native American literary works to contemporary life.
6. Engage in a critical reading of a variety of literary genres; recognize, understand, and explain various literary elements of texts.
7. Write well-organized, thesis driven literary argument papers; support ideas with explicit reasoning and textual evidence.
8. Conduct research, evaluate secondary sources, and cite literary evidence using accurate MLA conventions.
9. Demonstrate the ability to use complex language in a variety of contexts.

Methods of Instruction:

Methods of instruction may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. The following methods of instruction may be used in order to accomplish the stated objectives:

1. lectures
2. audio-visual presentations
3. guest lecturers
4. individual research and library work
5. oral and/or written reports
6. class discussion/discussion board
7. individual conferences
8. journals or other written responses to literature
9. exams and quizzes
10. online learning component
11. cultural events
Assessment (Including Critical Thinking Measurements):

Methods of assessment may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. Methods are may include (but are not limited to)

1. Objective and essay exams
2. Oral/written presentations
3. Written assignments
4. Research project(s)
5. At least 20 pages of credited writing for assessment, inquiry, learning, thinking, and/or communication. (These pages may include but are not limited to the following: journals, exploratory writing, and discussion board postings, etc.)

Learning Objectives:

Unit 1: Introduction to Native American Literature (Expected Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

1. Identify course rationale, objectives and procedures for evaluation.
2. Discuss means and methods of literary analysis.
3. Define and explain critical literary terminology.
4. Identify the time frame covered by course.

Unit 2: Native American Images and Identities (Expected Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1. Discuss the connection between contemporary Native American literature and oral tradition.
2. Read and analyze representative selections that demonstrate the impact that past image has had on Native Americans and Native American literature.
3. Discuss the emerging positive self-image predominant in much contemporary Native American literature.
4. Explore the theme of fragmentation in Native American culture and literature.
5. Identify and explain the social, religious, philosophical, and economic forces that characterized Native American life.

Unit 3: Creation Myths, Stories of Origin (Expected Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1. Analyze various creation myths and emergence myths.
2. Conduct independent research in order to find other tribes' creation myths or emergence myths.
3. Identify the significance of creation myths and myths of origin to tribal identity and world view.

Unit 4: The Spirit World: Trickster, Hero and Folk Tales (Expected Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1. Explain the concept of a cultural hero and patterns associated with the cultural hero.
2. Conduct independent research in order to find tribal artists’ renditions of culture heroes in various art forms.
3. Define the Native American concept of medicine and its significance to tribal cultures.
4. Identify major characteristics of the trickster figure and its importance to a culture.
Unit 5: Kinship and Survival (Expected Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1. Explain Native Americans' relationship with the earth.
2. Identify Native American family relationships.
3. Examine the theme of survival in Native American literature.
4. Describe the extent to which individual determination and assimilation have been used as survival techniques in both individual and tribal Native American culture.
5. Discuss the role that humor and memory play in Native American surviving culture.

Unit 6: Research Unit (Expected Outcomes, 7, 8, 9)

1. Evaluate sources for use in scholarly research.
2. Demonstrate the ability to write a research paper using accurate MLA conventions.
3. Compose a well-developed research paper using specific evidence from primary and secondary sources.