

Spring 2010 Course Description

Title: Native American Literature

Course Number: Engl 336

CRN # 54835

Instructor: Caroline Woidat

Time: MWF 11:00-11:50

Building: Welles 134

- **Course Content (scope, purpose, emphasis)**

“Much energy and effort has been expended thinking about the first two words of the troika—NATIVE and AMERICAN, but little, in comparison, about the third—LITERATURE,” argues Ojibwe writer and critic David Treuer. This course will ask students to think about all three as we read Native American literature and literary criticism. We will examine non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and film with attention to Native and American cultural contexts and to the critical debates surrounding the texts.

- **Probable Reading List (works arranged in approximate sequence)**

Charles Eastman, [From the Deep Woods to Civilization](#)
Zitkala-Sa, [American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings](#)
Leslie Marmon Silko, [Storyteller](#) and [Gardens in the Dunes](#)
N. Scott Momaday, [The Way to Rainy Mountain](#) and [House Made of Dawn](#)
Simon Ortiz, [from Sand Creek](#)
Sherman Alexie, [Reservation Blues](#) and [The Business of Fancy Dancing](#) (film)
David Treuer, [The Translation of Dr. Apelles](#)
Readings on myCourses

- **Evaluation Procedures (including kinds and numbers of papers and exams, role of class participation, oral reports, quizzes and what is going to count in grading)**

Active participation in class is required and an important component of the course grade: students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments and show their critical engagement with the texts. In addition to making daily contributions to class discussions, students will also be responsible for one formal group presentation. Students will write approximately 10 response papers throughout the semester and two critical essays (the second a longer one); there will be a midterm and final exam.