

# MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

*Native American Religions (REL: 133)*

*Fall 2022*

*Comenius Hall 114 –Monday 6-9pm EST*

**Instructors:** Ryan Goeckner, MA, [goecknerr@moravian.edu](mailto:goecknerr@moravian.edu)

**Office Hours (via Zoom):** Tuesdays, 10-1p;

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/94658587078?pwd=b1U2QWhMZ1RwQ3hURGtsL2tOOGR0dz09>

## **Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to traditional “myths”, rituals, and life-cycle ceremonies of Native American peoples, representing several geo-cultural regions of North America. Attention will also be paid to issues of medicine and healing, gender relations, ecological values, and Indigenous responses to threats of physical and cultural genocide.

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. Explain the role the academic and colloquial understandings of religion play in global settler colonialism.
2. Recognize the broad commonalities across many Native spiritual traditions, while acknowledging the vast diversity of religious and cultural traditions within Native America.
3. Explain the historical and legal factors that have historically and contemporarily impeded the free exercise of Native religions and spiritualities.
4. Explain the relationship between Native and non-Native religions and spiritualities today and throughout history.
5. Recognize how an understanding of Native spiritual traditions can aid non-Native understandings of contemporary social justice movements in Native America.

## **Course Requirements:**

Written Reflections (5, 75%): Throughout the semester, students will respond to brief prompts reflecting on the content covered in the course. They will synthesize their experiences throughout the course with their own understandings of Native American religions and spiritualities, highlighting the importance of a critical perspective to cross-cultural interactions. These assignments are expected to be 2-3 pages in length. Additional requirements will be provided via Canvas and in-class instruction.

Participation (20%): It is highly unlikely that any student will do well in this class without actively participating during our in-class sessions. The nature of the content being discussed in this class requires an open-mindedness and curiosity that is most effectively explored with your peers and myself through in-class discussion. For the most part, I will not lecture over the specifics of material to be completed outside of class. You are expected to prepare these

materials before you come to class. All readings and other materials will be made available, free-of-charge, via Canvas.

**Attendance (5%):** Students will be expected to attend all sessions of the class, to the best of their abilities. Each student is allowed two, unexcused absences without penalty. Any absence thereafter should be discussed with me to determine any potential makeup work. Attendance will be recorded through daily exit slips at the end of class.

All submissions will be turned in electronically on the course's Canvas page.

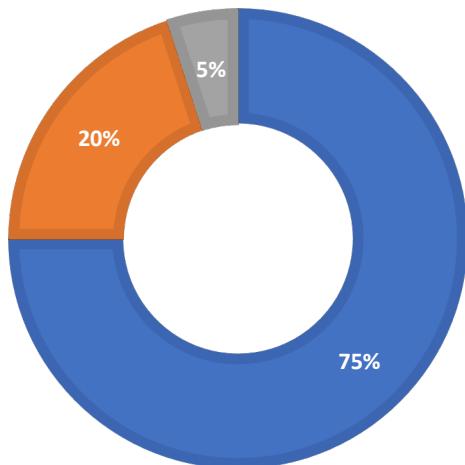
**Grading:**

Grading Scale

94-100 = A  
90-93 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
84-86 = B  
80-83 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
74-76 = C  
70-73 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
64-66 = D  
60-63 = D-  
<60 = F

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

■ Reflections ■ Participation ■ Attendance



Statement of Academic Integrity

All students should become familiar with the [Academic Code of Conduct](#). As we develop a community of ideas in this course it is important that we all adequately acknowledge the sources of the ideas and knowledges we will engage with in this class. These include not only the authors of texts used in this class but also your instructors and classmates. If you ever have any questions regarding plagiarism or where to draw the line between your own thoughts and those of others, please ask the instructor for this course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Moravian University is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or you think you may have a disability) and, as a result, you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the institution's programs or services, contact the Accessibility Services Center (ASC) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with ASC. The ASC works with students confidentially and does

not disclose any disability-related information without the student's permission. To contact the Accessibility Services Center (ASC), located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, call 610-861-1401, or email [asc@moravian.edu](mailto:asc@moravian.edu).

### [Bias, Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, and Sexual Misconduct \(Including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation\)](#)

Moravian University faculty are committed to providing a learning environment free from harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment/violence under Title IX. Should a student disclose a concern of this nature, the faculty member is obligated to inform the Executive Director for Equity and Compliance (Title IX Coordinator), who will assist the student in determining support measures and resolution options. Reports can be made online anytime at [www.moravian.edu/titleix](http://www.moravian.edu/titleix). Fully confidential reporting options include the University Chaplains and professionals in the Counseling and Health Centers. Survivors are encouraged to seek immediate assistance by contacting the Advocates at (484) 764-9242. For more information, including grievance procedures, please view the Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Non-Discrimination Policy at [www.moravian.edu/policy](http://www.moravian.edu/policy).

#### **Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Watch/Listen</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Wk 1: 8/29	Course Introduction  Who are Native Americans?	*Paper 2007, pgs 3-14  <i>Page count: 11 pgs</i>		*Course Pre-test
Wk 2: 9/5	Academic Study of Native Religions (or Spiritualities?)  How did we get here?	*Paper 2007 pgs 14-26 *Deloria, ch. 4  <i>Page Count: 36 pgs</i>		
Wk 3: 9/12	Settler colonialism and religion	*Wolfe 2006 *Englert 2020  <i>Page count: 43 pgs</i>	*NAC– California Missions  <i>Duration: 57 mins</i>	*Reflection 1 (due 9/19)
Wk 4: 9/19	Oral Tradition  Lakota Spirituality and the White Buffalo Calf Woman	*Deloria, Concept of History  <i>Page count: 17 pgs</i>	*Hopi Origin Story  <i>Duration: 4 mins</i>	
Wk 5: 9/26	Religion and the Environment	Kimmerer 2013, two chapters	*Gather *NAC - Climate Change & Spirituality	*Reflection 2 (following Monday)

Wk 6: 10/10	Spiritual Traditions and Activism	Goeckner et al. 2020  <i>Page count: 17 pgs</i>		*Reflection 3 (due 10/17)
Wk. 7: 10/17	Religion and Health		AMR - Healing the Land is Healing Ourselves  <i>Duration: 1 hr 13 mins</i>	
Wk. 8: 10/24	Appropriation and Consumerism	*Allred 2000 *Daley et al 2015  <i>Page count: 28 pgs</i>	AMR – Native Appropriations  <i>Duration: 59 mins</i>	
Wk. 9: 10/31	Native Peoples and the Paranormal/Supernatural	*Dickey Ch 2 *Freneau 1787 *Why Every Horror *Film of the 1980s...  <i>Page count: 14 pgs</i>		
Wk. 10 11/7	Religion and Sport	*Zogry Ch 3  <i>Page count: 40 pgs</i>	Keepers of the Game  <i>Duration: 82 mins</i>	*Reflection 4 (due 11/14)
Wk. 11 11/14	Syncretism and Hybridity	*Calabrese Ch 6 *McComb Sanchez 2020  <i>Page count: 41 pgs</i>		
Wk. 12 11/21	Religious Freedom in Native America  Legal Barriers	*Morman, Intro and Ch1  <i>Page count: 44 pgs</i>		
Wk. 13 11/28	Religious Freedom in Native America  Spiritual Sites	*Morman Chs6-7  <i>Page count: 37 pgs</i>	In the Light of Reverence  <i>Duration: 72 mins</i>	*Reflection 5 (due 12/5)
Wk. 14 12/5	Multiple Religious Belonging	*Martin Ch3  <i>Page count: 24 pgs</i>		
Wk. 15 12/12	Final Discussion			*Course Post-test

