COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the spiritual/religious expressions of the Indigenous/Native American peoples of the Americas, touching on crucial cultural perspectives, political challenges & activism, historical complexities and the overarching art of healing. Various traditions and practices rooted in indigenous spiritual perspectives continue in contemporary times, and through this course, we will evaluate the foundations of these systems of belief, highlighting women’s roles, the sacred feminine and two-spirit peoples. Guest speakers and presentations to include local indigenous spiritual leaders.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. A community-oriented understanding of the Four Agreements:
   Be impeccable with your word. Don’t take anything personally. Don’t make assumptions, and Always do your best. Active participation in group exercises and class discussions, including attentive listening and respectful engagement of others.
2. One-page introductory statement listing communities of accountability & learning goals for this course (guiding questions).
3. Responses to each week’s reading. Reflect on the assigned text, offer a critical discussion question. Upload to Blackboard by/before midnight before class.
4. One 3 page critical response paper on the reading for the week of your choice, to be presented in class. You will be responsible for presenting and facilitating discussion on that reading.
5. One 8-10 page final research paper or project on an issue raised during the semester. You are encouraged to build on your critical reflection paper and class discussions. The final paper must reference course readings and at least another outside source. Proposal (subject, thesis, bibliography) is due April 2020.

Grading:
30% Class Participation/Weekly Responses; 30% Critical Response Paper; 40% Research Paper/Project

Syllabus subject to change. Any student who feels that he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Bill Dethlefs, Director of The Center for Accommodations & Support Services at (915) 747-6197 or wwdethlefs@utep.edu

SCHEDULE:

Jan. 21: Introductions Review Syllabus & Learning Outcomes
Jan. 23: Introductions, Review Weekly Presentation Schedule, view short film
Jan. 28: Discuss ‘The Walking of Words’ (pdf provided), view Abuela Grillo
Jan. 30: The Native American Sweat Lodge, pg 2-41
Feb. 4: The Healing Lodge, pgs 106-135
Feb. 6: God Is Red, Forward & Ch.3 The Religious Challenge
Feb. 11: God Is Red, Ch 4 Thinking in Time & Space, Ch 6 The Concept of History:
Feb. 13: God IS Red, Ch 8 Origin of Religion & Ch 10 Death & Religion
Feb. 18: God is Red, Ch 16 Sacred Places, & Ch 17 Religion Today
Feb. 20: The Popul Vuh
Feb. 25: The Fifth Sun
Feb. 27: Conquest, Forward, Intro & Ch 1 Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide
Mar. 3: Conquest, Ch.2 Boarding School Abuses and the Case for Reparations:
Mar. 5: Conquest, Ch. 3 Rape of the Land: Vicente Ramos,
Mar. 10: Conquest, Ch 4 Better Dead than Pregnant: The Colonization of Native Women’s Reproductive Health & Conquest
Ch. 5 Natural Laboratories, Medical Experimentation in Native Communities:
Mar. 12: Ch. 6 Spiritual Appropriation as Sexual Violence: & Ch. 7 Anticolonial Responses to Gender Violence
March 17: SPRING BREAK
March 19: SPRING BREAK
Mar. 24: Read: One Nation Under God: The Triumph of the Native American Church, Ch 1 & Ch. 2 The Peyote Ceremony
Mar. 26: One Nation Under God: The Triumph of the Native American Church, Ch. 3 Pharmacology, Legal Classification and the Issue of Substance Abuse, Ch. 4 The Legal Tango: The Native American Church vs. The United States of America
Mar. 31: An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States, Ch. 10: Ghost dance Prophecy: A Nation is Coming & Ch 11: The Doctrine of Discovery & Conclusion: The Future of the United States; UTEP Women’s Conference (Attend session)
April 2:  Fleshing The Spirit: Toward A Spiritual Pedagogy along the Borderlands, pgs 34-42; Spiritual Roots of Chicana Feminist Borderland Pedagogies: A Spiritual Journey w/ Tonantzin/Guadalupe pgs 43- 58; Spirit Journey: Home as a Site for Healing and Transformation, 43-58; Nepantla Spiritualty: My Path to the Source(s) of Healing, pgs 167-185
Apr. 7:  The Fifth Sun, preface, prologue, intro & ch 8: The Spiritual Universe & article: In ixtli in yóllotl/ a face and a heart: Listening to the Ancestors" by Dr. Yolanda Leyva
Apr. 9:  Red Medicine Preface & Introduction & Ch 2 Birth Ceremony: Storying Sacred Knowledge; View portions of “Catching Babies”
April 14:  Red Medicine, Ch. 4 Ceremony of Sweeping: Symbols as Medicine
April 16:  Red Medicine, Ch 6 Ceremony of Time: Time as Medicine & Ch 7 Dreaming Ceremony: Medicine Dreams
April 21:  Red Medicine, Ch 9 Ceremony of Return: Yahir Perez
April 23:  Taken from the Lips: Gender and Eros in Mesoamerican Religions, by Silvia Marcos, Intro & Ch 1 & 2
April 28:  Taken from the Lips, Ch. 3 & 4
April 30:  Two-Spirit People, Ch. 2 & Ch. 3; Watch Film: Two Spirits
May 5:  The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men, Intro & Ch 1-2
May 7:  The Sacred Hoop pgs, 147-165 $ 222-261

**TEXTS (Required Texts in BOLD):**

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<th>Edition</th>
<th>Author/Editor</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>God Is Red:</strong></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Vine Deloria, Jr.</td>
<td>Fulcrum Publishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Native View of Religion</td>
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<td>One Nation Under God:</td>
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<td>Huston Smith &amp; Reuben Snake</td>
<td>Clear Light Publishers</td>
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<td>The Triumphs of the Native American Church</td>
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<td><strong>Fleshing The Spirit:</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Edited by Elisa Facio &amp; Irene Lara</td>
<td>The University of Arizona Press, Tucson</td>
<td>978-0-8165-3097-7</td>
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<td>Taken from the Lips: Gender and Eros in Mesoamerican Religions</td>
<td>Sylvia Marcos</td>
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<td>9789004148901</td>
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<td>Red Medicine: Traditional Indigenous Rites of Birthing &amp; Healing</td>
<td>Patrisia Gonzales</td>
<td>The University of Arizona Press, Tucson</td>
<td>978-0-8165-2956-8</td>
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<td>The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions</td>
<td>Paula Gunn Allen</td>
<td>Beacon Press, Boston</td>
<td>0-8070-4600-0</td>
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<td>Nine Seasons: Beyond 2012: A manual of Ancient Aztec and Maya Wisdom</td>
<td>Carlos Aceves</td>
<td>Indigenous Cultures Institute</td>
<td>978-0615615226</td>
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<td>The Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs</td>
<td>Camilla Townsend</td>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
<td>978-0190673062</td>
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<td>Indigenous People’s History of the United States</td>
<td>Roxanne Dunabar-Ortiz</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
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