REL 3380

Native American Religions

Section: U01

In Person

Spring Term 2027

Course Meeting Information

Class Meeting Days and Times: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1:00 PM-1:50 PM

Room: GRAHAM CENTER 286

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

REL 3380: Native American Religions introduces the spiritual and religious traditions of Indigenous Peoples across the Americas, with particular attention to North America, the Caribbean, the Andes, and Florida. The course examines how Indigenous communities understand the sacred through relationships to land, territory, and water; ancestors; ritual, storytelling, and everyday practices; and how these understandings have been shaped by histories of colonization, displacement, and resilience. Students will analyze primary sources, peer-reviewed scholarship, and multimedia materials, and engage with key concepts such as tribal sovereignty, kinship, oral tradition, language, sacred place, and environmental stewardship. A central purpose of the course is to develop critical, decolonial approaches to Indigenous religions that challenge stereotypes, foreground Indigenous voices and self-representation, and illuminate contemporary issues, including religious revitalization, cultural survival, and struggles over sacred lands and Indigenous rights in Florida and beyond.

Textbook and Course Materials

No required book needed

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: -

Publisher: -

Publication Date: -

Copyright Date: -

ISBN 10: -

ISBN 13: -

Notes: -

Description: -

Chapters/Pages: -

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Analyze Indigenous beliefs/rituals/practices across regions
- Apply interdisciplinary perspectives
- Identify key Peoples/Nations (Florida & beyond) and their practices
- Explain core Indigenous concepts (sovereignty, kinship, land, etc.)
- Develop arguments on impacts of colonization, etc.

- Produce reflective and analytical written work

Expectations of the Course

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Students are expected to engage respectfully and consistently with course materials and with one another, whether in online discussions, group activities, or peer feedback.
- Participation includes: timely completion of readings, thoughtful contributions to discussions, and adherence to guidelines for respectful dialogue.
- Disagreement is welcome when expressed in a civil and evidence-based manner; personal attacks or discriminatory remarks are not permitted.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

- This is an online course with required weekly engagement. Students are expected to log in regularly, complete readings and assignments by the posted deadlines, and participate in online activities as directed.

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- This course features materials and viewpoints from various Indigenous Peoples and Nations across the Americas. Students should engage with these materials respectfully and analytically.

- Virtual Classroom-online- interactions must demonstrate respect for differences in culture, religion, sexuality, political views, and background, in accordance with university and state policies.
- The goal is to encourage critical thinking and informed discussion about complex histories and current issues, not to endorse any specific religious or political position.

Instructor Commitments

- The instructor will interact with students during class sessions and via the learning management system, providing timely reminders and updates about readings, assignments, and assessments.
- The instructor generally replies to student emails or messages within two business days when classes are in session.
- The instructor will post grades for major assignments within about two weeks of the due date (or sooner when possible) to provide clear, timely updates on students' progress.
- The instructor will provide feedback on course performance and, when requested, offer guidance on how students can improve their performance on future assignments and assessments.

Assignments & Assessments

ASSIGNMENTS

A brief biography, eight weekly written assignments, a research paper, and an exam will meet the requirements for the course content.

1. “GTKY” SHORT BIO AND INTRODUCTION (20 POINTS / 20%)Students will submit a short written or multimedia introduction that identifies their academic interests, prior experiences (if any) with Indigenous topics, and learning goals for the course. This assignment helps build community and sets expectations for respectful engagement. Assessed on completion, clarity, and adherence to guidelines.

Assignment	**Date Posted**	**Deadline**	**Points**	**Weigh**
Assignment	Date Posted	Deadline	Points	Weig
GTKY Bio	01-13-27	01-20-27	20P	20

1.

Students will complete brief weekly written responses based on the

assigned readings, lectures, and/or media. Each WWA will ask students to summarize key ideas, identify essential concepts, and apply course materials to a guiding question. WWAs are assessed on accuracy, use of course materials, and clarity of explanation. Late submissions are subject to the course lateness policy.

Assignment	Date Posted	Deadline	Points	Weight
Assignment	Date Posted	Deadline	Points	Weigh
WWA 1	01/20/27	01/27/27	2P	2%
WWA 2	01/27/27	02/01/27	2P	2%
WWA 3	02/03/27	02/08/27	2P	2%
WWA 4	02/10/27	02/15/27	2P	2%
WWA 5	02/17/27	02/22/27	2P	2%
WWA 6	03/10/27	03/15/27	2P	2%
WWA 7	03/17/27	03/22/27	2P	2%
WWA 8	03/24/27	03/29/27	2P	2%
WWA 9	03/31/27	04/05/27	2P	2%
WWA 10	04/07/27	04/12/27	2P	2%
TOTAL			20P	20%

1. MIDTERM EXAM (EXAM 1) (20 POINTS / 20%)

Assignment	Date	Points	Weight

Assignment	Date	Points	Weight
Assignment	Date	Points	Weight
EXAM 1	02-24-27	30	30%

1. FINAL PROJECT (EXAM 2) (20 POINTS / 20%)

- Integrate at least one course learning outcome.
- Draw on course materials and peer-reviewed or community-based sources.
- Be presented as a written paper, multimedia project (e.g., video, podcast, website), or slide presentation, following the instructor's guidelines.

  The project serves as the Final Exam and is assessed on depth of analysis, use of sources, organization, and clarity of communication.

Assignment	Date	Points	Weight
Assignment	Date	Points	Weight
FINAL PROJECT (EXAM 2)	04/14/27	30P	30%

Grading

The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the course regarding assignments, assessments, or course information.

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points of Each	Total Points Available	Weight
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GTKY-Bio and Introduction	1	20	20	20%
Weekly Written Assignments (WWA)	10	2	20	20%
Midterm EXAM 1	1	30	30	20%
Final Project (EXAM 2)	1	30	30	20%
Total			100	100%

Letter Grade	Range (%)
Letter Grade	Range (%)
A	Above 93
A-	90- 92
B +	87- 89

Letter Grade	Range (%)
B	83- 86
B-	80- 82
C +	77- 79
C	70- 76
D	60- 69
F	59 or less

Grade	Evaluation Criteria
EVALUATION CRITERIA	
A (90-100)	Excellent work that is engaged, insightful, and demonstrates that you are able to apply the concepts from class for critical reflection and evaluation of new content.
B (80-89)	Above-average work that demonstrates your understanding of class concepts by using course material to support your argument. Work develops meaningful ideas.
C (70-79)	Average, Passable work that considers the themes of the class, but lacks focus and does not develop class material effectively or in a sustained fashion.

Grade	Evaluation Criteria
D (60-69)	Below average work that fails to consider the class themes in any substantial way.
F (0-59)	Work fails to meet minimum assignment requirements.

Schedule of Topics

Assignment	Date Posted	Deadline	Points	Weight
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GTKY	01-13-27	01-20-27	20P	20%
WWA 1	01/20/27	01/27/27	2P	2%
WWA 2	01/27/27	02/01/27	2P	2%
WWA 3	02/03/27	02/08/27	2P	2%
WWA 4	02/10/27	02/15/27	2P	2%
WWA 5	02/17/27	02/22/27	2P	2%
EXAM1	02-24-27		30	30%
WWA 6	03/10/27	03/15/27	2P	2%
WWA 7	03/17/27	03/22/27	2P	2%
WWA 8	03/24/27	03/29/27	2P	2%
WWA 9	03/31/27	04/05/27	2P	2%
WWA 10	04/07/27	04/12/27	2P	2%
FINAL PROJECT (EXAM2)	04-14-27		30P	30%

Assignment	Date Posted	Deadline	Points	Weight
TOTAL			100P	100%
Extra Credit			6P	6%

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.