

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS

REL3380

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GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mary Lou Pfeiffer, LL.M, MA	Phone:	(305) 348-4100
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Office Hours:	By appointment Monday @ BBC, Wednesday at MAMC	E-mail:	Please use Blackboard course messages or if necessary pfeiffer@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, an overview of North American Tribal peoples, demonstrates the complex issues surrounding the cultural richness of tribal life where rituals and practices have often been denied the tribes by federal and state governments in the US.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify American tribes by region and tribal societies
 - Note the differences that exist among various groups in the US and in Canada, in some cases, Latin America
 - Understand that tribal groups are grounded and engaged with the land as sacred—the Earth is the source of human existence that shapes the meaning of motherhood—that is, the land becomes Mother or Grandmother and is honored accordingly through ritual and ceremony
 - Define how tribal life differs from religious life in Western culture as a reflection of the world's creation, the art of understanding about the Earth does not offer one species dominance over others, but all the Earth as interconnected and appreciated for its diversity
 - Describe “Indianness” through rituals, beliefs, regalia, and habitation in North America prior to and after colonization by the Europeans
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- Identify ancient tribal groups of South Florida and peoples of the glades’ cultures like Tequesta, the ancient Tequesta relic: the Miami Circle; the Caloosa, northern Florida’s Timucua, and today’s tribal

inhabitants of South Florida- the Miccosukees and the Seminole Tribes of Florida and illustrate their importance from past to present, and; explain the importance of The Miami Circle

- Formulate global perspectives of indigenous peoples who share critical issues like the loss of sacred land, language and culture that affects their survival
- Understand and explain the importance of drumming, dancing and the regalia worn by American Indian tribes for ceremony and for social gatherings
- Describe the tribal position on protection the peoples, preserving their traditional cultural property and keeping relics safe, many of which are critically endangered, and relate those areas specific to the tribes of South Florida.
- Explain the traditional use of masks from the tribes who use them; explain how masks are used in ceremony versus a death or healing mask
- Identify problems that exist with “others” who are not tribal members who use Indian traditional property and Indianness” for a personal economic gain
- Identify the ancient and modern tribes of South Florida
- Define Seminole healing and the use of plants for healing purposes (ethnobotany)
- Interpret and explain the economic factors for the major South Florida tribes relating their tradition that allowed them to become financially successful

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

INSERT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

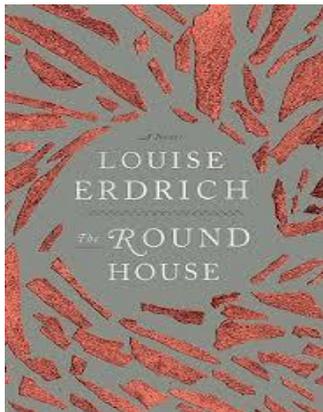
Please review the [policies page](#) as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

INSERT HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM FROM FIU STUDENT HANDBOOK

COURSE PREREQUISITES

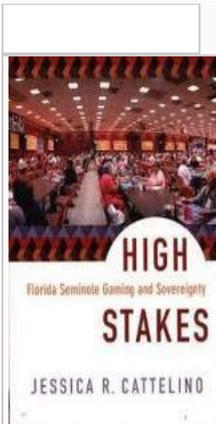
There are no prerequisites for this course.

Add TEXTBOOK: ***The Round House*** by Louise Erdrich, HarperCollins 2012, ISBN 978-0-06-20654-7



TEXTBOOK

	<p><i>Native North America</i> Larry J. Zimmerman, Brain Leigh Molyneaux University of Oklahoma Press (2000)</p> <p>ISBN: 0-8061-3286-8</p>
	<p><i>A Seat at the Table in Conversation with Native Americans</i> Huston Smith University of California Press</p>



ISBN: 0-520-24439-7

High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty

Jessica R. Cattelio

ISBN 987-0-8223-4227-4

Click here to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

This is an online course, meaning that the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students. It is extremely important that you verify all assignment and assessment due dates and times.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum with a photograph of yourself, a requirement for completion of the course before grades can be posted
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar
- **Check announcements and course mail for any possible changes that might occur after the course commences**

COURSE DETAILS

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **messages in Bb Learn**.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

8 discussions topics are listed for the semester. You are expected to post your initial response after which you should respond to at least 4 others posts (possible total score, 10 points).

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUIZZES

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum **hardware requirements**.

ESSAY/CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW

All essays and critical book reviews or research papers are written in academic style (3rd person) and must contain proper referencing of quotations or concepts from an author to avoid plagiarism. **Double-line space your essays; include a title page, date, course and include your surname on each page; properly list all references** in a bibliography. Two essays are short in length; the first two essays will be returned with tracked changes for your information that allows a dialogue between us to occur. This offers an example of what I expect in written work. There are information sheets posted in the course content: "Academic Papers/Essay Recommendations," "Critical Book Reviews" and a "Grading Rubric." See below for the critical book review/DVD/article list. Make your selection from the list; this replaces a final exam- 1,500 word research paper or critical book review.

Information regarding a critical book review can be found here: **<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/critrev.html>**

Critical Book Review-

The Round House, Louise Erdrich (required for the course). This is available in hardback, paperback and electronic resources.

ADOBE CONNECT PRO MEETING

There will be two live chats scheduled through the course in Adobe connect on **Thursday evenings from 21:00-22:00 (8-9 PM)**. The topics for the live conversations are posted in the course under the Adobe connect tool with tutorials for those who have not used Adobe connect. It is highly recommended that you use a headset with a microphone; otherwise you will need to type in your responses (time consuming for a meeting less than one hour). There will be polling devices as well as information set up in the chat for you to vote and post your opinion on pertinent issues. An URL will be posted for logging into the live chat. Poll results will be displayed. For those unable to connect through the live chat, viewing will be available, and your comments need to be sent via the discussion board that is posted following the live chat. (10 points/live chat or follow up presentation).

The Adobe Connect Pro Meeting is an online meeting room in which you can interact with your Professor and fellow students by sharing your computer, screens or files, chat, broadcast live audio and take part in other interactive online activities.

Requirements for using Adobe Connect Pro Meeting:

1. Disable any window pop-up blocker.
2. **Adobe Flash Player** is required to successfully run your Connect Pro meeting. You can **test your computer** to make sure that you are set up with all of the tools you will need to participate in the meeting.
3. Use of a combination **headset and microphone** with USB connection is recommended to ensure quality sound and reduce technical difficulties.

Please **click here** for additional information on Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to the course regarding assignments, assessments or course information. The syllabus is listed in weekly increments with modular titles for continuity within the course. Because this is online, it often requires more diligence than a classroom course. Check each

assignment or assessment for due date to ensure you submit in a timely manner. **A zero will be assigned to any item submitted late or missed. NO EXCEPTIONS unless a dire emergency occurs** such as a death in the immediate family or hospitalization. **In such a case, the professor must be notified as soon as possible. There are no offerings** for a reduced grade for late or missed assignments or assessments because you have the course requirements, due dates and times posted online in advance! **Reminder: I use a 24-hour clock; all assignments and assessments close at 12:00 PM on the due date, usually on Sunday.** Some musical presentations will be added for your listening pleasure that should be of interest for each of the modules and use in your essays should be referenced accordingly in the bibliography A folder of the musical offerings is provided for correct notation.

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
2 Short Essay (300 words or more)	10%
3 Essays (500 words or more)	20%
1 Critical Book for <i>The Round House</i> that serves as the FINAL Exam (PART A: Abstract: 200 words; PART B ESAY1,500 words or more)	25%
4 Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam (Matching, multiple choice, 1 short essay response)	20%
8 Discussions/ 2 Live Chats	15%
Total	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	93 and Above	B-	81-83	D+	67 - 70
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 80	D	64 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	74 - 76	D-	61 - 63
B	84 - 86	C-	71 - 73	F	< 61