

AML 3285 (28676 Section 1SH1)

Native American Literature

Spring 2024

MEETINGS: MWF per. 5 (11:45 am- 12:35 pm) in Matherly 0117

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Susan Hegeman (she/her), ("HEGG-a-man")

Department of English

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 1-3 pm in Turlington 4119 or at other times by appointment, either in person or via Zoom. Zoom meeting room <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224> [Links to an external site. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to literature, especially novels, created by native North American authors of the 20th and 21st centuries. We will consider Native American and First Nations literature as a postcolonial literature and as a creative and collective interpretation of history and culture. We will also examine how contemporary literature addresses issues of concern to Indigenous people, including cultural and political sovereignty, cultural survival, representations of Indigenous people in non-native communities, and issues of environmental stewardship.

Course Objectives

Through genuine and persistent engagement with course materials, activities, and discussions, you will:

- gain knowledge of the histories, literatures, and cultures of Indigenous North Americans
- gain knowledge of classic and contemporary texts and critical issues in the field of Native American literary studies
- develop skills in reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing about complex literary texts
- develop skills in using contextual cultural, historical, and other information in literary analysis
- apply knowledge of the issues and contexts of Native American literature in written analysis of literary works

Required Course Materials

The following novels are required for the course (listed in the order in which we will read them):

- Tommy Orange, *There There* (978-0525520382 Vintage) 290 pages
- D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (0826304699 U Oklahoma Press) 315 pages
- N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (978-0061859977) 208 pages
- Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen* (U Oklahoma Press) 306 pages
- Le Anne Howe, *Shell Shaker* (978-1879960619) 216 pages
- Leslie Marmon Silko, *Gardens in the Dunes* (9780684863320) 480 pages
- Louise Erdrich, *The Night Watchman* (0062671197) 464 pages

We will also be watching and discussing the following film, available via streaming services such as Amazon, Tubi, Apple TV.

- *Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian* (d. Neil Diamond 2009)

All other course materials—supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, schedule of assignments and lecture/discussion topics—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

Course Content Note

The study of the history and literature of Native Americans and First Nations people necessitates occasionally reading about and discussing disturbing topics, including violence, racism, and sexual abuse. If you ever feel the need to leave a class discussion, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually. You are welcome to discuss your personal reactions to the course material with me in office hours. If you or a friend are in distress, please contact [U Matter, We Care](#) or the Counseling and Wellness Center at 352 392-1575.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments.

For help with all tech issues, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Recording Policy

According to state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Course Requirements and Grading

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE

Attendance and Participation	200 points; 20% of final grade
Short context paper	200 points; 20% of final grade
Formal Paper 1	300 points; 30% of final grade
Formal Paper 2	300 points; 30% of final grade

Attendance and participation (20% of final grade)

In this class, we will all learn by respectfully listening to, reading, and engaging with each others' ideas. It is therefore expected that students come to class, and that they come prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Students will be graded on their attendance and on the quality of their oral and written contributions to classroom exercises and discussion. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions. Poor attendance will adversely effect students' participation grade.

We will actively practice professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication in all formats, both written and oral. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to these expectations.

[University policy](#)[Links to an external site.](#) specifies acceptable reasons for absence from class, including sponsored events (e.g., athletics), religious holidays, and illness. If you are absent or plan to be absent from class for an acceptable reason please email the instructor. Documentation may be required.

Students who are ill with a potentially contagious condition are expected to be considerate of others and self-quarantine. Students' grades will not be adversely affected by this if you inform the instructor of your medical situation. Students are expected to contact the instructor if they anticipate extended absences so that we can work on a plan to keep up with the class.

Short context paper (200 points; 20% of final grade)

Students will be asked to write a 1000-1500 word paper explaining the significance of a topic relevant to the novels we are reading this semester. Some topics are historical or sociological, and some are issues of recent or ongoing concern in contemporary NativeAmerican/First Nations/Indigenous communities.

Formal Papers (300 points each; 30% of final grade each)

Students will write two formal academic papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The paper assignments, including topics and guidelines, will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of October 13 and December 16, respectively.

Papers will be graded wholistically on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate explication of concepts and arguments; accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. [Links to an external site.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. [Links to an external site.](#) Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. [Links to an external site.](#) Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>. [Links to an external site.](#)

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/Links to an external site.>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and the filing of a report in your academic file.

Types of plagiarism include (but are not limited to): presenting work written in whole or in part by someone else as your own (for example submitting a paper written by a friend; a purchased or retyped paper; or one taken from a file); directly quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing from external sources without proper citations. Many students fail to fully understand that even such possibly innocent mistakes as paraphrasing the work of others or failure to give proper citation is a serious form of plagiarism. Because such mistakes have potentially serious consequences, talk to the Instructor if you have any questions about plagiarism, academic honesty, or proper research and citation methods.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/Links to an external site.>, 392- 1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/Links to an external site.> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

The full schedule of readings, assignments and discussion topics is available on Canvas at the following site: [Schedule of Readings and Discussions](#). As we go through the semester, this schedule may be modified based on the interests and needs of the class as a whole. Any such changes will be communicated early, in class and via Canvas. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting the Canvas course page.

