

Course Syllabus

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Course assignments are not weighted.

AML 3285-6439

American Indian Literature

Spring 2021

Meetings: MWF per. 5 (11:45 am- 12:35 pm) via Zoom.

Instructor: Prof. Susan Hegeman, Department of English e
EMAIL: shegeman@ufl.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays, 1-3 pm or by appointment via Zoom. **Zoom link to my private meeting room:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224>;

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 American Indian 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 Indian people, including cultural and political sovereignty, cultural survival, representations of Indians 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 American Indian and First Nations history, literatures, and cultures
- gain knowledge of classic and contemporary texts and critical issues in the field of American Indian 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 American Indian 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
- Louise Erdrich, *The Plague of Doves* (978-0060515133) 311 pages
- Leslie Marmon Silko, *Gardens in the Dunes* (9780684863320) 480 pages

We will also be watching and discussing the following films:

- Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian* Available for streaming via UF's Kanopy account. UF login is required: <https://ufl.kanopy.com/video/reel-injun-native-american-portraval-hollywood>
- Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner* available for streaming via UF ARES.

All other course materials—supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

Course Content Note

The study of the history and literature of American Indians necessitates occasionally reading about and discussing disturbing topics, including violence 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.

Canvas and Zoom

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments, and Zoom for participating in class discussions and meeting your instructor in office hours. There is a link to Zoom Conferences on the navigation menu of the Canvas course page. Zoom login information will also be given on the course calendar.

Canvas can be accessed via the following link: [Welcome to E-Learning @ UF e](#). Click on the orange "log in to e-learning" button.

You will get the most out of Zoom discussions if you have a good internet connection that allows you to participate in class using both video and audio. If you are having trouble with your internet connection, you can log into the session using your phone. [Click here for tips on how to manage Zoom settings and communicate effectively on the platform.](#)

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

For help with Canvas or Zoom, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
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.

Class Compartment

Even though we are not meeting face to face, you are expected to comport yourself and communicate in the same way as you would in any other classroom. Respectful interactions among students are expected. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication.

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	100 points; 10% of final grade
Participation	100 points; 10% 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 (100 points; 10% of final grade)

Students are expected to attend Zoom meetings with both audio and video links activated. Exceptions to this will be made if students notify me that they are having connectivity issues.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. I will also accept medical excuses with a doctor's note. Students are expected to contact the instructor if they anticipate extended medical absences so that we can work on a plan to keep up with the class.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

- 0-2 absences: 100 points (A)
- 3 absences: 93 points (A-)
- 4 absences: 89 points (B+)
- 5 absences: 86 points (B)
- 6 absences: 82 points (B-)
- 7 absences: 79 points (C+)
- 8 absences: 76 points (C)
- 9 absences: 72 points (C-)
- 10 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

Classroom Participation (100 points; 10% 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 prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Students will be graded on the quality of their oral and written contributions to classroom discussion. Participation includes oral and chat contributions to class discussions via Zoom and comments on the class discussion board in Canvas. 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 affect students' participation grade.

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 American Indian/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 holistically 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

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the university's Academic Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) and the Academic Honesty Guidelines (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>). 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.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

[January 11-15: readings and assignments](#)

[January 18-Feb. 1: readings and assignments](#)

[March 10-April 21 readings and assignments](#)

[March 10-April 21 readings and assignments](#)

These pages may also be found in the "Modules" navigation tab on Canvas, along with relevant accompanying course materials. This represents my current plans for readings, assignments and discussions. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change 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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 11, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Jan 13, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Jan 15, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
	Office hours	1pm to Apr 23 at 3pm
Mon Jan 18, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Jan 20, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Jan 22, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Jan 27, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Jan 29, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Feb 1, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Feb 3, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Feb 5, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Feb 10, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Feb 12, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
	Contextual short paper	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Feb 17, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Feb 19, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Feb 24, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Feb 26, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Mar 3, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Mar 5, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Mar 10, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Mar 12, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
	First paper assignment	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Mar 17, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Mar 19, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Mar 24, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Mar 26, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Mar 29, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Mar 31, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Apr 2, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Apr 7, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Apr 9, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Apr 12, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Apr 14, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Fri Apr 16, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Mon Apr 19, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Wed Apr 21, 2021	AML3285-6439 American Indian Literature	11:45am to 12:45pm
Sat Apr 24, 2021	Second paper assignment	due by 11:59pm
	Roll Call Attendance	