

Course : Indigenous Writings in the Americas  
Sigla : LET 061I-1  
Classroom :  
Professor : Allison Ramay

### **I. Description**

In this course students will study how writers who self-identify as indigenous use literature (prose and poetry) as platforms for discussing topics intimately connected to memory, identity, self-representation and citizenship. This course invites students to juxtapose literary texts written by and about indigenous peoples from North and South America, primarily. Videos and samples from popular cultural will be used in class to complement readings. The main concepts to be explored include nationalism, hybridity, subalternity, sovereignty, nature (“anti-nature” in the case of Tommy Pico), heritage, gender and multiples epistemologies.

### **II. General Objective**

1. To study primary texts written by indigenous peoples through the concepts of sovereignty and representation.

### **III. Objectives**

1. To examine images and representations of indigenous peoples in the Americas and how indigenous authors respond to these.
2. To consider a range of texts in chronological order, from the pre-conquest period to the present, so as to examine shifts in discourse and discuss their relevancy today.
3. To compare and contrast texts and themes in the writings of indigenous authors from different parts of the Americas.

### **III. Content**

1. Writing Without Words
2. Images that Create and Counter the Nation
3. Notions of Sovereignty-Body
4. Intellectual Sovereignty
5. Territories of Resistance

### **IV. Methodology**

- Discussion
- Lectures
- In-class textual analysis
- Guest speakers

### **V. Evaluation**

- Participation during in-class discussion 10%
- Writing Activities/Essays (4) 40%
- Review of one speaker’s talk (1) 5%
- Reading Reports (2) (10%)
- Final Essay (1) 35%

### **VI. Bibliography**

#### Compulstory Readings

Alexie, Sherman

The Business of Fancy Dancing. New York: Hanging Loose Press, 1992.

- Blest Gana, Alberto Mariluán: Un Drama en el Campo. Santiago de Chile: LOM Ediciones, 2005.
- Boone, Elizabeth Introduction. Writing Without Words. Alternative Literacies in Mesoamerica and the Andes. Elizabeth Hill Boone, Walter Mignolo, eds. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1994.
- Byrd, Jodi "Satisfied with Stones". The Transit of Empire. Minnesota: UP Minnessota, 2011. 147-183.
- Cadena, Marisol de la. Earthly Beings. Duke Press, 2015.
- Chakravorty, Gayatri In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics. New York: Methuen, 1998.
- Earle, Rebecca Return of the Native: Indians and Myth-Making in Spanish America, 1810-1930. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.
- Erdich, Heidi and Laura Tohe Sister Nations: Native American Women Writers on Community. St Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, U.S., 2002. Print.
- Highway, Tomson Kiss of the Fur Queen. Canada: Anchor Canada, 1998.
- Huinao, Graciela, ed Hilando en la memoria. Santiago: Cuarto Propio, 2006.
- Lindberg, Tracey Birdie: HarperCollins, 2016.
- Manquilef, Manuel "Comentarios Del Pueblo Araucano II: La Gimnasia Nacional (Juegos, Ejercicios y Bailes)." Revista de Folklore Chileno IV.3-5 (1914).
- Pico, Tommy Nature Poem. Portland: Tin House, 2017
- Pratt, Mary Louise Arts of the Contact Zone. Modern Language Association. 1993. 33-40.
- Tohe, Laura No Parole Today. Albuquerque, NM: West End Press: 1999.
- Tohe, Laura "There is No Word for Feminism in My Language". Wicazo Sa Review, Volume 15, Number 2, Fall 2000, pp. 103-110.
- Tuhiwai Smith, Linda Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples. London: Zed Books, 2012.