

## **ENG 130-02 Introduction to Native American Literature**

Dr. Edith Baker

As an introduction to literatures of Native peoples of the Americas, this course will expose students to the variety of literary traditions, from oral storytelling to contemporary genres. In studying these literatures, students will examine a variety of issues, such as identity, assimilation, values, and the importance of family/religion/tribe/nature.

This course fulfills the introduction to non-western literature category of general education and also supports the cultural diversity emphasis of general education. Although the primary focus of this course will be on U.S. Native literatures, the course will illustrate the fact that Native literature is hemispheric in nature by broadening that focus to include First Nations literature from Canada, as well as indigenous literatures from Latin American cultures.

To meet these general goals, the following objectives will be accomplished upon students' successful completion of the course:

1. Students will become familiar with diverse forms and genres of Native American cultures, from oral traditions to contemporary genres of writing.
2. Students will focus on the multiple dimensions of Native American cultural systems, including those related to social organization, religion, historical and political contexts, arts, literature, and knowledge systems.
3. Students will study the contexts of tribal issues (such as history, politics, and sovereignty) and the historical treatment of Native peoples (such as prejudice and discrimination), which are evident in the various literatures.
4. Students will develop diverse critical and theoretical perspectives for their understanding of Native American literatures, especially including indigenous tribally oriented approaches.
5. Students will expand their knowledge of genres and develop insight into non-western Native American literatures.
6. Students will develop their critical reading and writing skills by analyzing literary texts and writing about them.
7. Students will learn a shared vocabulary that will enable them to communicate with each other and thereby contribute to a respectful, supportive, and diverse environment.
8. Most importantly, students will “develop an awareness and appreciation” for the diverse cultures and peoples that make up the various indigenous tribal communities in our country.