

Native American Plains Cultures and the Church: XS ____

Oklahoma City, OK

May 18-24, 2014

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Elaine A. Heath and Rev. Dr. David Wilson

Course Description: This course exposes students to the diversity of Native American religion and life of the Plains tribes, particularly issues of culture and justice and the diversity of heritages among the various tribes. This course provides opportunities to explore the various histories and religious expressions (including Christianity) of the Plains tribes and issues of conflict and justice related to the state of Oklahoma.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce history, religion, and cultures of Plains tribes
- Survey history of Christianity among Plains tribes
- Learn about issues of justice and conflict among the Plains tribes related to the State of Oklahoma
- Explore contemporary Christianity among Plains tribes

Itinerary:

May 18 - Depart Dallas, drive to Oklahoma City University, check in at Methodist Hall by 5 PM

May 19-24 – Daily classes, visits with various Native leaders and communities, museums and other sites relevant to our study

FOOD: We will be cooking most of our own meals in community at Methodist Hall. If you have food allergies please notify Dr. Heath at least a week prior to the immersion.

WE WILL WALK A LOT! Please have a well broken in pair of shoes that you love to walk in and bring comfortable clothing. We will be visiting Native communities, museums, and other locations pertinent to our research.

WEATHER: There is no such thing as bad weather, there is only inappropriate clothing. Bring an umbrella and/or rain coat if there is rain in the forecast. Also bring sunscreen and a hat.

The dorms at Methodist Hall are quite comfortable, but bring your own sheets, blankets, pillow, towels, and personal care items as these will not be provided for you.

WIFI is available at Methodist Hall.

TRAVEL: You are responsible for getting yourself to and from Oklahoma City University, and students will carpool together on daily excursions to various sites. Be prepared for that.

Required Texts

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee* (New York: Henry Holt, 2007).

Kidwell, Clara, Homer Noley, and George Tinker. *A Native American Theology* (New York: Orbis Books, 2001).

Noley, Homer. *First White Frost* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991).

Video – Fondren Library should have these

- PBS American Experience Series: *We Shall Remain*
- *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- *Geronimo*

Recommended Resources

Mission Education Event Resources

- *Giving Our Hearts Away*
- *New World Outlook* issues for Mission Education event
- *Response Magazine* – Mission Education event

RESOURCE PERSONS

We are grateful to the following persons from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference who are contributing to our class:

- Dr. Blue Clark, Muscogee Creek, OCU Law Professor – sovereignty
- Tom Poolaw, Kiowa – Sweat lodge & Sun Dance
- Harold Barse, Kiowa, Lakota, Wichita – Substance abuse
- Mrs. Robyn Sunday Allen, Executive Director, Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
- Anita Phillips, Cherokee – Native American Comprehensive Plan
- Dr. Homer Noley, Choctaw – history of church and Native Americans
- Mrs. Gina Timberman, Choctaw – American Indian Cultural Center
- Dr. Heather Shotton, OU Professor, Wichita, Cheyenne, Kiowa
- Mr. Oliver Littlecook, Ponca/Otoe, Native American Church
- Mr. Lupe Gooday, Apache, OIMC
- Dr. Henrietta Mann, Cheyenne, Cheyenne Nation College
- Steve Littleman, Kiowa – Language & culture

Assignments (Please submit as Word.doc or Word.docx email attachments):

- Complete required readings and video viewings before the immersion
- Keep a daily journal of 1-2 pages per day while on the immersion, in which you reflect on your experiences of learning and spiritual formation. Due: June 30, 2014.
- Write a final paper in which you discuss the church in its social context with regard to *one* of the Plains tribes. Your paper should include salient

aspects of the history, cultures, and current conflict and justice issues of the tribe under consideration. Imagine that this paper would be an introductory document read by someone who is going to be appointed to serve in ministry with that tribe for 2 years, who has never been part of the tribe or its context. Incorporate the course texts, websites and other experiences into your paper and document them in your analysis and application. Footnote your paper appropriately and use Turabian for writing form.

Length: 10-12 pages. Due: June 30, 2014.

SMU DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Southern Methodist University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you must schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4)

MINORITY CONCERNS AND THE PERKINS CURRICULUM

In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to all courses except those in the area of Ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors that will give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in society at large.
2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominantly white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.
3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide--in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses--opportunities for women students and students from ethnic minority groups (1) to study the functions of ministry with particular reference to their own status or tradition in the life

of the church, (2) to practice the functions of ministry (when practice is an element in a course) in settings which reflect or, if possible, arise from their own status or tradition in the life of the church, (3) to receive evaluation of their practice of the functions of ministry from persons who are not only knowledgeable about and skilled in those functions, but also share their special status or tradition in the life of the church, and (4) to observe the practice of persons who, as women or as members of ethnic minority groups, provide models of effective ministry which are immediately relevant to the special status or tradition of women or members of ethnic minority groups in the church.

Perkins Community Life:

Community chapel services are on Wednesdays and Thursdays and there are many other services and activities throughout the week. Please watch for announcements in Perkins News.

Perkins regulations regarding Incompletes:

The grade of Incomplete is granted only in rare cases when a student is prevented by extraordinary circumstances of illness or other severe hardship, from completing some major portion of the required course work before the deadline for submission of grades for the term. Requests for a grade of Incomplete must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs no later than *[insert date for submission of all written work from the academic calendar]*. For more information, see the Perkins *Catalog*, p. [46].

Academic dishonesty at Perkins:

At orientation every new student should have received a copy of Perkins "Statement on Academic Responsibility." Plagiarism and other academic offenses are taken very seriously at Perkins. Please be careful and honest in your papers for all your classes.

Writing Center:

All of us can work to improve our writing. Good writing and clear communication are important for graduate school and for ministry. If you would like help with your writing, contact the writing center at 214-768-4253, visit them on the web at <http://www.smu.edu/alec/wc.html>, or drop by their office (Suite 202) in The Paul B. Loyd Center which is "attached to the northwest corner of Ford Stadium" which is across the street from Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Counseling Center:

You may need help with something other than writing style. If you would like to see an SMU counselor, contact the SMU Counseling and Testing Center at 214-768-2211. Their office is on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Health Center. If you walk north along Bishop Boulevard from Perkins, it is the third building on your left past Bridwell library. Students are entitled to several free counseling sessions.

The SMU Libraries:

Bridwell and the other SMU libraries (<http://www.smu.edu/libraries>) offer incredible resources. The books, journals, special collections, and internet resources are phenomenal. For SMU libraries' on-line resources go to <http://www.smu.edu/cul/or/index.html>.)

For SMU online resources, you may use Infotrac One-File and EPSCO Host (choosing the resources related to religion and or the humanities).

Religious Observance:

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)