***Contemporary Native American Art, Literature, and Film***

TCORE 114B

MWF 11-12.20

JOY 110

Dr. Danica Miller

Office: JOY 214J

Office Hours: MWF 12.30-1.30

And by appointment

Email: millerda@u.washington.edu

\*Outside of office hours, email is the best way to reach me. I will respond by the end of the following business day, Monday through Friday.

**Course Description:**

In *Contemporary Native American Art, Literature, and Film*, we will analyze contemporary interpretations of the Native American experience and discuss how the experience is shaped by history and culture. How is Native American art influenced by tradition, yet influenced and inspired by the present? We will analyze the transition between oral tales to more contemporary formats. Where do we see traces of the oral in *Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection* and what makes Native American oral tales conducive to graphic storytelling anyways? Sherman Alexie includes both oral tales and graphics in his young adult novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. What film conventions do Native American filmmakers support or deconstruct in their works? What aspects of the oral tradition are evident in *Smoke Signals* and *Skins*? These are a few, among many, of the questions we will be addressing in this class.

**Required Texts:**

*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*

* Also on Reserve

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*—Sherman Alexie

*Haboo—Vi Hilbert*

* Also on Reserve

*Round House—Louise Erdrich*

**Course Schedule:**

Monday, January 5

Introduction to course

Native American Stereotypes

Wednesday, January 7

“‘What is an Indian’: Identity Politics in United States Federal Indian Law and American Indian Literatures” by Eric Cheyfitz (on E-Reserve)

Friday, January 9

*Haboo*

(Introduction – page 22)

Monday, January 12

*Haboo*

(pages 23-72)

**Presentation: Lushootseed**

Wednesday, January 14

*Haboo*

(pages 73-117)

**Discussion Post #1 due at 11am via Canvas**

Friday, January 16

*Reel Injuns* (Film)

Monday, January 19

**No Class!**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!**

Wednesday, January 21

*Smoke Signals* (Film)

**Presentation: Chris Eyre**

Friday, January 23

*Smoke Signals*

Monday, January 26

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

(pages 1-44)

**Presentation: Sherman Alexie**

**Discussion Post #2 due at 11am via Canvas**

Wednesday, January 28

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

(pages 45-98)

**Presentation: The Dawes Act**

Friday, January 30

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

(pages 99-135)

Monday, February 2

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

(pages 136-178)

Wednesday, February 4

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

(finish)

**Discussion Post #3 due at 11am via Canvas**

Friday, February 6

**Midterm**

Monday, February 9

*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*

(pages 1-54)

Wednesday, February 11

*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*

(pages 54-110)

Friday, February 13

*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*

(pages 111-172)

Monday, February 16

**No Class!**

**Presidents’ Day!**

Wednesday, February 18

*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*

(finish)

**Discussion Post #4 due at 11am via Canvas**

Friday, February 20

**Field Trip! Tacoma Art Museum**

**Topic Due (5 points)**

* Using one of the texts we have read in class, craft a topic that will argue a larger research point. You may use one of the discussion points or presentations as a starting point. Via Canvas.

Monday, February 23

**Presentation: Pine Ridge Reservation**

*Skins*

**Discussion Post #5 due at 11am via Canvas**

Wednesday, February 25

*Skins*

Friday, February 27

*The Round House*

(pages 1-55)

**Presentation: Louise Erdrich**

**Discussion Post #6 due at 11am via Canvas**

Monday, March 1

*The Round House*

(pages 57-108)

**Conferences**

**Working Works Cited due**

* You will need 10 possible sources (that will support your thesis) for your annotated bibliography. Via Canvas. 10 points.

Wednesday, March 3

*The Round House*

(pages 109-162)

**Presentation: Anishanaabe**

Friday, March 5

*The Round House*

(pages 162-211)

**Annotated Bibliography Rough Draft with Thesis/Introduction Due**

* Using the 10 sources from your Working Works Cited assignment, craft a rough draft of your annotated bibliography. Please bring in three hard copies and send one copy via Canvas. 10 points.

Monday, March 8

*The Round House*

(pages 211-264)

Wednesday, March 10

*The Round House*

(pages 264-finish)  
**Discussion Post #7 due at 11am via Canvas**

Friday, March 12

**Annotated Bibliography Due**

**Final Date to Be Announced**

**Evaluation**

Assignments include: quizzes, a presentation, tests, and an annotated bibliography. Active class participation a must.

In-class reading quizzes 10 points each

Midterm/Final 100 points each

Discussion Posts 10 points each

Presentation 25 points

Annotated Bibliography 50 points

**In-Class Quizzes:** Short reading quizzes will be given almost daily promptly at the beginning of class; consequently, it is very important to always be on time to class. The quizzes themselves consist of basic reading comprehension from the day’s text assignment. Quizzes are meant to reward you, not punish you. I do, however, drop the lowest quiz grade.

**Midterm/Final:** The midterm and final will be short answer. Questions will be taken directly from in-class discussion.

**Group Presentations**: I am interested in a broad historical overview of the selected topic with smart, critical analysis for more specific details. What do you think it is important for the class to know and to understand regarding your topic in relation to the class readings?

**Discussion Posts:** I will post a prompt two days before the discussion is due. You will be expected to respond in one or two paragraphs with smart, interesting criticism and use supporting textual evidence.

**Thesis with Introduction/Annotated Bibliography:** This assignment will teach the necessary steps needed to prepare for a larger research project. We will work on writing thesis statements, introductions, and how to do basic research.

\*All late work receives an F.