

Institute of American Indian Arts

Native Eyes Online Course Offerings

Fall 2009



IDST 201 Indigenous Perspectives on Knowledge

In this course we explore the concept of knowledge and how knowledge relates to culture and to values. The course examines how people come to “know” things about the natural world, and how different cultures approach and structure this activity differently. We will discover how these various approaches have developed into entire systems of thought that affect the way cultures see and understand everything that happens in the world. Finally, we will contrast some of the distinctive features of indigenous knowledge systems with those of the dominant (Western) culture.



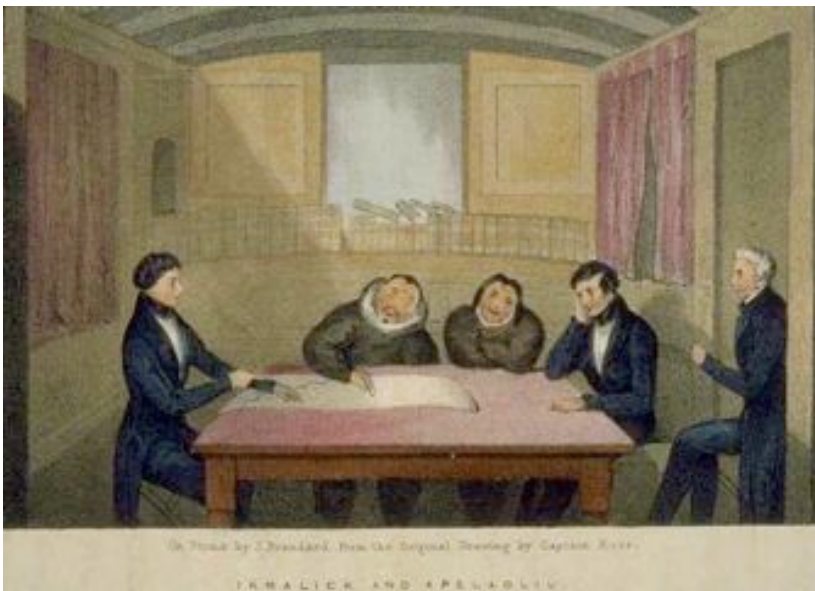
IDST 204 Indigenous Perspectives on Place

The course explores the nature of place, the importance of place, and how different cultures conceive place and orient themselves to it. Place is directly connected to culture, art, religion, history, environment, time, sound, narrative, identity, knowledge and values. The main assignment for the course can be presented as a Photo Essay or Story Weave.



IDST 215 Indigenous Visual Studies: perception/representation/meaning

By examining images of photography, hyper-media, film, advertisement, art and museum display, this course explores how different cultures see, represent and understand the world around them. This course focuses on visual representation both as a form of cultural documentation and as an exploration of unique visual worlds. Both the colonial project and indigenous agency are presented as vantage points to understanding strategies of appropriation, commercialization and political representation. The main assignment for the course can be presented as a Story Weave or Photo Essay.



IDST 301 American Indian Mapping: configuring space and time

This course explores the sophisticated traditions, ancient and modern, within Native American cultures for mapping the landscapes they have inhabited. Indigenous peoples found, explored and developed the Americas; to do so they created their own techniques for navigating and traveling. They had their own ways of knowing, representing, recording and talking of the environment and their passages through it. Just as they shaped the environment in their travels and explorations, so the environment shaped them, resulting in particular ways of configuring space and place, time and history.