

Institute of American Indian Arts Native Eyes Online Course Offerings

Summer 2009

IDST 201 Indigenous Perspectives on Humor



This course explores the concept of humor and some of its cultural uses and manifestations: the use and abuse of racial and cultural stereotypes; comedy, tragedy and irony in Native American art, literature, and the oral tradition; and humor as an analytical tool to examine aspects of culture that may not be fully apparent on the surface. The main assignment for the course can be presented as a Photo Essay or Story Weave.

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 210 Indigenous Perspectives on Nature



The major objective of this course is to help students rethink their ideas of nature: what the concept means, what it has meant in the past, and what it may come to mean in the future. We will explore how different peoples experience nature and how they understand relationships within the natural world. The main assignment for the course can be presented as a Story Weave or Photo Essay.

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.