Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.
Office Phone: 835-5901
Room: Weir 102
Email: jnewmark@nmt.edu

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:50 p.m. and by appointment in 005 Fitch.

ABOUT OUR COURSE:

Welcome to Native American Literatures. In this course, we will conduct a survey of the texts – written and oral – produced by the Native peoples of the lands that now constitute the United States (and in a few instances, Canada). We will begin our study with centuries-old Native legends and creation stories; as we proceed through the semester we will read transcriptions of Native oratory, personal letters, autobiographies, short stories, plays, poems, and excerpts from novels. We will learn the dynamic nature of Native textual production and expression and will seek to understand the conditions by which Native peoples in the territories of the United States emerged in the context of print media. As students in this course, you will be expected to develop a solid understanding of the Native American literary and “storying” (a term of scholar Gerald Vizenor’s that we will discuss early in the term) traditions based on these readings, on the historical context that I will provide you in lecture, on the discussions we have as a class, and on the analyses of texts that you do individually in your essays and exams.

POLICIES:

Required texts:

• Native American Literature: A Brief Introduction and Anthology, Gerald Vizenor
• A style-guide of your choice
• Numerous texts that I will post on our WebCT site

Required work and grading scale:

Your grade will be based on various factors, including attendance, participation, and completion and quality of written work. You will be expected to participate in daily class discussions, occasional online discussions, and occasional group work in class. You will write two formal papers and complete two exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay one (four to five pages)</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay two (four to five pages)</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Textual analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Quizzes (as needed)</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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Grading scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>465 and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450-464</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>435-449</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>415-434</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>400-414</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>385-399</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>365-384</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350-364</td>
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Class Participation:

You will be evaluated on your ability and willingness to participate in classroom discussions and other activities. Keep this in mind and be sure to be alert in class, prepared for class work, and engaged in our subject matter.

Textual Analysis:

Once during the term, each student will have offer an analysis of a reading of the student’s choice (by the scheduled author for the class-day’s discussion). This brief presentation must also incorporate discussion of one or two pieces of pertinent criticism of the author’s work along with the student’s own reading (i.e. analysis) of the text.

Attendance and Tardiness:

If you miss more than three classes, you will be asked to drop the course or you will receive a failing grade. There are, of course, extraordinary situations in which absences might be excused. A stay in the hospital, for example, is what I would call “extraordinary.”

I do take attendance into consideration in the calculation of your final grade, along with the above-mentioned factor of participation. Be sure to attend all class meetings and to be on time. Every three days that you are tardy (more than five minutes) count as one “absent” day. I consider this syllabus, incidentally, as your contract with me, and mine with you. If you choose to continue in this class, after reading this syllabus, I expect that you will abide by the requirements of this course.

Quizzes:

There will be a series of unannounced reading quizzes throughout the term.

Late Papers:

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of our class time on the day the assignment is due. After this time, for each day an assignment is late, I will deduct one letter grade (meaning, if the paper begins at an "A" and is one day late, I will begin grading it from an "A-" -- etcetera). Again, extraordinary circumstances might excuse a late assignment, but these are rare. I will not accept emailed versions of papers; you must come to class, or arrange to see me in my office, to turn in your paper-copy of your assignment. I reserve the right not to accept late papers.

Courteousness and Cell Phones:

We will be covering some sensitive topics in this class. So, I will expect you to behave appropriately and be open to different opinions. Above all, be courteous to your classmates. One sign of courteousness is that you turn off your cell phone before entering class. If there are repeated problems with your cell phone, I will ask you to leave the classroom for the day. You will take an absence that day.
Equal Access:

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Plagiarism:

In our course, I will review the standards of correct citation, academic honesty, and intellectual property. After this information has been presented to you in class, you are responsible for it and cannot claim ignorance as a defense against an accusation of academic dishonesty. You will need to quote directly from literary texts, and appropriately cite these texts, in both of your papers and in your exams. Each of your papers must have a Works Cited page.

Plagiarism, in very general terms, is the use of someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation. The style guide Everyday Writer, which you may have from English 111 or 112, includes information about plagiarism. I suggest that you become familiar with pages 168 and 173-175 and commit to memory the information regarding plagiarism that I provide for you in class. All other good style guides provide detailed information on avoiding plagiarism. Also, the NMT library offers a handy website addressing many plagiarism issues and provides advice on avoiding plagiarism:

http://infohost.nmt.edu/~nmtlib/INFO/ORef/plagiarism.html

Essay Format:

All work that is to be handed in must be typed, double-spaced, printed on white paper in black ink, and must use twelve-point font (preferably Times New Roman). If your paper does not conform to these stylistic requirements, I will hand it back to you without a grade and you will be required to reformat in and will suffer a late-paper penalty. Again, your papers must include correct text citations and a Works Cited page.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Week Number: Reading/Assignment Due:

**Week one:**

Wednesday, January 17  Course introduction, review syllabus. Discuss WebCT.

Friday, January 19  *NAL*, Introduction (1-15); Native “storying” (WebCT)

**Week two:**

Monday, January 22  Creation stories and other traditional legends (WebCT)

Wednesday, January 24  Pontiac speech (delivered 1763); Cornplanter speech (delivered 1790) (WebCT)

Friday, January 26  STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Occom, "A Short Narrative of my Life" (written 1768) (WebCT)

*from Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter Sixth Edition*. 
Week three:
Monday, January 29
NAL, Apess (19-31) (published 1829)

Wednesday, January 31
Discuss Occom and Apess

Friday, February 2
Speeches and petitions by Nancy Ward (ranging between 1781-1831) (WebCT)
[from Native American Women’s Writing: 1800-1924, by Karen Kilkup]

Week four:
Monday, February 5
“A History of Federal Indian Policy” (WebCT)
[from American Indian Politics and the American Political System, by David E. Wilkins]

Wednesday, February 7
Continue with above; historical context

Friday, February 9
STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS
“A Cherokee View of Civilization” and letter by John Ridge to Albert Gallatin (written 2/27/1826). Two excerpts from the chapter Exiles in their own Land: “Plea from the Chickasaw” (1826) and “Tushpa Crosses the Mississippi” (recorded in late 1926) (WebCT)
[from The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents, by Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, and Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to Present, 1492-1992, by Peter Nabokov]

Week five:
Monday, February 12
Continue with above.
ESSAY ONE ASSIGNED

Wednesday, February 14
David Cusick’s “Sketches of Ancient History of Six Nations” (published 1827) (WebCT)
[from The Iroquois Trail, or Foot-prints of the Six nations, in customs, traditions, and history, by W. M. Beauchamp, S.T.D., in which are included David Cusick's sketches of ancient history of the Six nations, by W. M. Beauchamp]

Friday, February 16
George Copway, excerpts from Indian life and Indian history by an Indian author (published 1860) (WebCT)

Week six:
Monday, February 19
Susette La Flesche “Nedawi” (published 1881) and Pauline Johnson “A Red Girl’s Reasoning” (published 1893) (WebCT)
[from The Singing Spirit: Early Short Stories by North American Indians, by Berdn C. Peyer]

Wednesday, February 21
STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS
Zitkala-Sa, excerpts from American Indian Stories (published 1921) (WebCT)
Friday, February 23  
Catch-up day. Essay questions day.

**Week seven:**  
Monday, February 26  
ESSAY ONE DUE

Wednesday, February 28  
Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin) and William F. Hanson, *The Sun Dance Opera* (1913) (WebCT)  
[from *Dreams and Thunder: Stories, Poems, and The Sun Dance Opera*, ed. P. Jane Hafen]

Friday, March 2  
Continue with above.

**Week eight:**  
Monday, March 5  
Catch-up and midterm exam review day

Wednesday, March 7  
MIDTERM EXAM

Friday, March 9  
TBA

**Week nine:**  
Monday, March 12  
SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 14  
SPRING BREAK

Friday, March 16  
SPRING BREAK

**Week ten:**  
Monday, March 19  
STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS  
Charles Alexander Eastman, excerpts from *Indian Boyhood* (1902) (WebCT)

Wednesday, March 21  
NAL, Luther Standing Bear, (33-46) (published 1928, 1931)

Friday, March 23  
NAL, John Rogers, (46-60)

**Week eleven:**  
Monday, March 26  
NAL, John Joseph Matthews, 106-112, (published 1934)

Wednesday, March 28  
Catch-up day

Friday, March 30  
NAL, D'Arcy McNickle, 112-120, (published 1936)

**Week twelve:**  
Monday, April 2  
TBA

Wednesday, April 4  
NAL, N. Scott Momaday, 60-69, (published 1967)  
ESSAY TWO ASSIGNED

Friday, April 6  
NO CLASSES
Week thirteen:
Monday, April 9  
STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS  
NAL, Maria Campbell, 76-83, (published 1973) and NAL, Luci Tapahonso, 283-286, (published 1979, 1993)

Wednesday, April 11  
NAL, James Welch, 166-175, (published 1974)

Friday, April 13  

Week fourteen:
Monday, April 16  
Catch-up day

Wednesday, April 18  
ESSAY TWO DUE  
NAL, Leslie Marmon Silko, 182-189, (published 1977)

Friday, April 20  

Week fifteen:
Monday, April 23  
NAL, Hanay Geiogamah, 337-359, (published 1980)

Wednesday, April 25  
STUDENT TEXTUAL ANALYSIS  
NAL, Louise Erdrich, 208-226, (published 1984)

Friday, April 27  
NAL, Gerald Vizenor, 299-237, (published 1994)

Week sixteen:
Monday, April 30  
Continue with above. Catch-up day.

Wednesday, May 2  
Exam preparation day.

Wednesday, May 4  
FINAL EXAM