COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The basic objective of the course is to provide a long-range historical and hemispheric overview of the encounters and exchanges amongst the religions of the Americas. The course bibliography is based on the Religion and the Americas Area Reading list. We will read and discuss our way through the semester with each of us bearing some leadership load. Thus, the course requirements consist of participation in seminars, presentations of summaries of the readings, discussion and debate about ideas raised in the readings, as well as book reports and short reflection papers. The central guiding questions of the course are: what sort of perspective is entailed by “a hemispheric view” on the Religions of the Americas? How is such a view distinct from prior perspectives? What methodologies and resources are necessary for constructing and developing a truly hemispheric perspective?

This is primarily a reading and discussion course. We look upon this course as a kind of collective venture into the terrain in which all are expected to participate together, and each can provide a special area of expertise which will help us answer some of the questions posed above.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is a proseminar. It is intended to immerse graduate students in the literature. You will read and critically assess major books, articles and methods current in the field. You will not do primary research. Within the seminar you will be expected to clearly report on your reading and directly respond to the ideas of your fellow students. All of the class meetings, your readings, and written assignments are intended to help you develop a knowledge of the historiographical and methodological terrain.
There are five major requirements:

1) Each week a core of common readings will form the basis of our discussions. Your careful reading and reflection upon these weekly readings is essential to the success of this course. The required books are listed in the syllabus, some are available at the University Bookstore and all can be purchased via the internet. Most of the articles will be available online or through course reserve in the UF library.

2) Each week one student will be responsible for summarizing the methodological and historiographical issues contained in the week’s common readings (three presentations will be required of each student). This summary will offer a starting point for our discussions.

3) Six times in the course of the semester each student will be required to submit by class time a one-page synthesis of the required readings for that day.

4) Each week one or more students will present written reports on particular books (two will be required of each student). These reviews will consist of three to five pages, double-spaced. These students are also expected to provide expertise in the discussion of the week’s topics based on their reading.

5) Each student will also prepare an essay on one of the topics discussed in the field. The essay should be no longer than twenty pages in length. The subject may be based on one of the oral reports or book reports, and it should fully cover the topic. First drafts of this essay will be distributed to class members and discussed in class.

GRADING:

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<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historiographical Essay</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Report (3)</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews (2)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Page Historiographical Papers (6)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOPICS AND READINGS:

*Electronic course reserve
**provided
Schedule of Seminars:

**I. First Week: Orientation (August 22nd)**

- Introductions
- Review of syllabus
- Course mechanics
- The State of the Field

**II. Overviews (August 29 – September 12)**


**Recommended:**


*The Popol Vuh*, Dennis Tedlock (ed.), (or version in: *In the Language of Kings*); (also available as Kindle e-book);

DeLoria, Vine. *The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men*. Fulcrum Press (or Kindle edition);


**September 05 – No Class – Labor Day;**

**III. Colonial Encounters I: Catholicism and Native Religions (September 19 – October 3);**


**Recommended Reading:**


Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away*


Joel Martin and Mark B. Nicholas, *Native Americans, Christianity, and the Reshaping of the American Religious Landscape*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2010

**IV. Colonial Encounters II: The African Diaspora (October 10 – 24)**


V. Borderlands and Post-Colonial Encounters (October 31 – November 7)


Recommended Reading:


November 21: American Academy of Religions Annual Meeting – No Class

VI. Globalization, Diaspora, and Transnationalism (November 14 - 28)


Recommended Reading:


VII. Papers Workshop (December 5)

Discussion of Drafts of Final Papers

*Final Papers are due on Monday, December 12th*