



Course Syllabus
Gyanmanjari Institute of Arts
Semester-3 (M.A)

Subject: Native American Literature (MATEN13514)

Type of course: Major

Prerequisite: NA

Rationale:

This course examines Native American literature's evolution from oral traditions to contemporary works. It explores key themes like cultural identity, colonization's impact, and the tension between tradition and modernity. Students will analyze diverse genres, including poetry by Joy Harjo and Louise Erdrich, Sherman Alexie's short stories, and N. Scott Momaday's novel "House Made of Dawn." The curriculum emphasizes the cultural and historical contexts of these works, highlighting how Native American authors use literature for cultural preservation and social commentary. Through close reading and critical analysis, students will gain a deeper understanding of Native American literary expressions, their stylistic innovations, and their significance in shaping indigenous perspectives in America.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks					Total Marks
CI	T	P		C	Theory Marks		Practical Marks		
			ESE		MSE	V	P	ALA	
04	00	00	04	60	30	10	00	50	150

Legends: CI-Class Room Instructions; T – Tutorial; P - Practical; C – Credit; ESE - End Semester Examination; MSE- Mid Semester Examination; V – Viva; CA - Continuous Assessment; ALA- Active Learning Activities.



Continuous Assessment:

(For each activity maximum-minimum range is 5 to 10 marks)

Sr. No	Active Learning Activities	Marks
1.	Cultural Conflict Poster: Students create a poster showing the cultural struggles of Native American characters from a story or novel. Use images, symbols, and words to show how characters balance tradition and modern life. Upload a photo of the poster on the GMIU web portal.	10
2	Modern Day Mythology: Students shall create a modern myth or legend that reflects contemporary issues within Native American communities, such as environmental activism, political rights, or cultural preservation. They should incorporate traditional storytelling techniques like symbolism, repetition, and nature imagery. Upload the written myth or a video performance on the GMIU web portal.	10
3	Generate a Poem using AI: Students have to generate a poem using AI on a topic from Native American Literature.	10
4	Spoken Word Event: Students shall host a virtual or in-person spoken word event where they recite Native American poetry, either written by themselves or adapted from Joy Harjo's "An American Sunrise". Each performance should emphasize the social and cultural themes of the poems. Upload the event video or recordings on the GMIU web portal.	10
5	Reservation Life Photojournalism Project: Students shall create a photojournalism project that visually represents life on a Native American reservation today. Using original photos or curated images, they will highlight the challenges and strengths of reservation life, focusing on themes like identity, cultural survival, and community. Upload the project as a photo essay on the GMIU web portal.	10
Total		50



Course Content:

Sr. No	Course content	Hrs	% Weightage
1	Foundation of Native American Literature Brief overview of Native American history, Cultural diversity, Oral traditions and their significance, Key themes and motifs, Historical context of Native American writing in English, Impact of colonization, Tribal perspectives, Cultural encounters, Indigenous voices, Socio-historical context, Ideological underpinnings, Thematic concerns, Stylistic innovations, Traditional storytelling techniques, Contemporary Native American literature.	15	25 %
2	Native American Poetry: Exploration of Native American poetic traditions and their modern expressions, Study of contemporary Native American poets, "An American Sunrise" by Joy Harjo, "Dear John Wayne" by Louise Erdrich, "How to Write the Great American Indian Novel" by Sherman Alexie, "Prayer to the Pacific" by Leslie Marmon Silko.	15	25 %
3	Native American Short Stories by Sherman Alexie Close reading and analysis of two short stories, "This Is What It Means To Say Phoenix, Arizona", "The Trial of Thomas Builds-the-Fire", Examination of narrative structure, symbolism, and themes such as identity, cultural conflict, reservation life, and the complexities of the Native American experience in contemporary America.	15	25 %
4	Native American Novel - "House Made of Dawn" by N. Scott Momaday In-depth study of "House Made of Dawn", exploring its literary significance as a Pulitzer Prize-winning work. Analysis of themes including cultural alienation, spiritual traditions, the struggle between modernity and tradition, and the search for identity, Examination of Momaday's narrative techniques and the novel's role in the Native American Renaissance.	15	25 %



Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory):100

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage	20	40	20	20	00	00

Note: This specification table shall be treated as a general guideline for students and teachers. The actual distribution of marks in the question paper may vary slightly from above table.

Course Outcome:

After learning the course, the students should be able to:	
CO1	Understand the historical and cultural context of Native American literature
CO2	Analyze and interpret key themes and styles in Native American poetry
CO3	Examine narrative techniques and themes in Native American short stories
CO4	Comprehend and critically assess a significant Native American novel

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and need of students. The teacher, in addition to conventional teaching methods by black board, may also use any of tools such as demonstration, role play, Quiz, brainstorming, MOOCs etc.

From the content, 10% of topics are suggested for flipped mode instruction.

Students will use supplementary resources such as online videos, NPTEL/SWAYAM videos, e-courses, Virtual Laboratory

The internal evaluation will be done on the basis of Active Learning Assignment
Practical/Viva examination will be conducted at the end of semester for evaluation of performance of students in the laboratory.



Reference Books:

- 1] The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature- 2005
- 2] Native American Literature: A Very Short Introduction- 2017
- 3] The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven- 1993
- 4] House Made of Dawn By N Scott Momaday- 1968
- 5] How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems by Joy Harjo, Volumes 1, Publisher- W W Norton & Co Inc, New York, 2002
- 6] "Dear John Wayne" by Louise Erdrich
- 7] "How to Write the Great American Indian Novel" by Sherman Alexie
- 8] "Prayer to the Pacific" by Leslie Marmon Silko.

