

Common Course Outline

NAST/WMST 227

Native American Women

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

NAST/WMST 227 – 3 Credits – Native American Women provides in depth analysis of the ways in which gender and societal notions of femininity have shaped the experiences of Native American women in North America, both historically and contemporarily. It examines the divergent roles that Native American women have played, and continue to play, in shaping social, economic, political, and cultural life within various tribes and nations. Though the primary focus is on Native American communities, this course explores interactions and exchanges between Native peoples and European colonizers, and explores the unique role that Native women have historically played in these interactions and exchanges. Women's contributions to Native American history, and North American history in general, are highlighted, and representations of Native women in myth, art, literature and popular culture are explored.

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: WMST 101 or NAST 101 or permission of the coordinator

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. compare and contrast ideas and expectations with respect to gender roles between various Native tribes/nations, and between Native and non-native peoples of North America;
2. evaluate the impact of European colonization on Native American women and on Native notions of femininity and masculinity;
3. discuss important social, economic, political and cultural contributions made by Native American women;
4. analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources by and/or about Native women;
5. evaluate the role of Native American women in larger movements for gender equality and justice;
6. identify significant concepts, issues and events affecting Native women historically and in contemporary society;
7. critique representations of Native women found in art, literature and/or popular culture;
8. analyze the ways in which gender is constructed within Native societies;
9. explain how ideas about gender and race have historically interacted and overlapped to shape the experiences of Native women; and
10. discuss Native women who have made significant contributions to the history of their tribes and to history in general.

Major Topics

- I. Representations and stereotypes of Native women in art, literature and/or popular culture of Native and non-native peoples
- II. The impact of European contact and colonization on gender roles within Native American society
- III. Native American women's political/social activism
- IV. Native American women's changing roles within the family
- V. Native American women's changing political And diplomatic roles
- VI. Contemporary issues/problems confronting Native American women, including alcoholism, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- VII. Native American women and Indian Removal
- VIII. Native American women and the feminist movement

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Regular attendance and class participation in discussions/activities.
2. At least two in-class exams/quizzes.
3. Analyzing a variety of primary and secondary texts. This is a writing assignment.
4. In class presentations and/or group work.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments. The course will include at least one significant writing/research assignment or several smaller writing assignments equaling at least a total of five pages. In completing the writing assignment, students will utilize academic sources appropriate to the discipline.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective course in the Native American Studies Program.