Bemidji State University

INST 3740: Environment, Wellness & the Sacred Connection to Place

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

In Indigenous communities, there is a deep and lasting connection to place. Today, there exists overwhelming evidence that connection to place offers important elements for overall individual wellness. However, many communities face challenges in their environments that are detrimental to their health and well-being. To support these communities, there is a need to reconnect them with ways to restore the sustainability of their environment and connection to place. In this course, students will learn the critical connections between the environment and health and will explore the influences of connection to place within the context of Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing. This is an experiential learning course -- learning through interaction, projects, and reflection. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/26/2019 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Western Science- Environmental Studies
2. Indigenous Environmental Knowledge- Indigenous Studies
3. Health

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. analyze how the environmental health and wellness concerns of Indigenous people have evolved for different Native American cultures.
2. discuss the impact of colonialism on the relationship between traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and the health of the Indigenous people from pre-colonial to present times.
3. compare the role that connection to place played in the Indigenous cultures in pre-colonial times to present attitudes.
4. evaluate how environmental injustices and Indigenous ways of knowing can contribute to wellness.
5. compare and contrast the perspectives and goals of wellness and place using both Western Science and Indigenous Knowledge.
6. examine the role of citizen scientists and advocacy with regards to the environment, wellness, and sacred connection to place.
7. recognize and articulate the value assumptions of ourselves and others regarding the environment, wellness and sacred connection to place which affect decisions and interpretations.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity
1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted