

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## AMCS 320: American Indian Belief Systems

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity

American Indian Belief Systems focuses on common thematic elements found throughout diverse American Indian communities. This course introduces the students to the philosophies, knowledges, languages, and spiritual beliefs of indigenous peoples in the Americas using a variety of texts and audiovisual materials from the humanities and social sciences as well as oral histories, interviews, and personal narratives. In this course students will critically examine issues surrounding the resistance, loss, reclamation, and revitalization of Indigenous cultures, knowledges, religions, and languages. MnTC Goal 7.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 12/16/2004 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. In looking at the diverse belief systems of American Indian cultures, students will first need to articulate and understand how their own cultural heritages affect their worldview, values, and assumptions, including their assumptions about the belief systems of others.
2. By understanding key cultural and historical concepts related to these knowledge keeping systems, students will learn how those concepts shaped American Indian cultures, and they will also learn about how those concepts have helped to shape the dominant American culture.
3. By learning about different cultures, students will also learn about multiple perspectives and worldview and alternative problem solving techniques associated with those perspectives and worldviews.
4. By learning to debunk stereotypes, students will first learn to recognize and critically assess cultural images and their sources.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Articulate one's cultural heritage and how it affects one's worldview, values, and assumptions, as well as exhibit a willingness to examine one's personal values, worldview, assumptions, and biases.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the experiences and contributions of the many groups that shape societies and cultures, in particular those groups that have been historically excluded and oppressed
3. Demonstrate intercultural communication skills (verbal and nonverbal) for interacting with those culturally different from one's self
4. Appreciate diverse perspectives and alternative approaches to interaction and problem solving and evaluate multiple perspectives and their underlying assumptions.
5. Recognize stereotypes and critically assess cultural images.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
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.
4. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted