AIS 490: Advanced Topics in American Indian Studies

Topic: Indigenous Learning and Decolonizing Methodologies

Professor: Dr. Larry Emerson

Student Capacity: 12

Seminar Description: This seminar is designed to create a decolonized space for learning. Learners originating from non-western histories and social frameworks are rarely afforded a space to construct and apply an indigenous critical lens relevant to their experience and study goals. Students will discuss and critically reflect on concepts, design, theory and practice issues within an indigenous context. Students may choose to engage learning projects of their own choosing or ones relating to leadership, activism, research and knowledge production, community building, and/or being an indigenous scholar.

Seminar Goals:

1. With Instructor approval, students will create a class project relevant to their studies and roles as scholars. (Examples can include a paper, use of Native traditional modalities, video, collage, and artwork).

2. Students will evolve a critical lens criteria drawing from indigenous cultural models.

3. Students will engage frameworks and concepts of learning involving indigenization, indigeneity, Native traditional knowledge, and decolonizing methods.

4. Students will be asked to do critical reflection writing

Seminar Requirements:

• Participation will involve class discussions and one-on-one meetings
• Students complete a final project negotiated with the Instructor
• Students must meet three times, one hour per session with Instructor to receive individualized attention to learning process.

Suggested Activities: Students should consider attending the Colloquia Series hosted by the American Indian Studies program.

• Wednesday, February 8: Indigenizing "Oral History" and Other Research Methods

• Wednesday, March 8: Reclaiming Voice, Vision, and Symbolism (Guest facilitator: Cornel D. Pewewardy, Comanche Nation College)
Required Readings:

Course Reader will be provided.

Recommended Readings: