

HT 260W AMERICAN GENOCIDE 1: NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY & THEOLOGY

Instructor: Craig L. Nessian

Elective.

Open to all: Synchronous.

1 Credit; letter grade or credit/no credit

This course is a seminar reading selected texts in American Indian history and theology through the lens of genocide theory. While there has been significant theological attention to liberation theology in contexts beyond North America, this course examines the significance of the conquest of North America by Europeans and the ongoing oppression of indigenous peoples.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce genocide theory (Practice of Complex Analysis).
2. To explore the history of North American indigenous peoples (Practice of Engagement with Cross-Cultural and Global Dimensions).
3. To read theological works by Native American theologians (Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom).
4. To discuss assigned readings with focus on implications for the ministry and mission of the church (Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity).

PROCEDURE: The course will meet once per week for one hour. The primary format is interactive discussion of readings led by instructor and students.

EVALUATION: 1) Completion of assigned readings. 2) Discussion leadership of assigned readings on a rotating schedule. 3) Research paper or project to demonstrate integration of semester's work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (** indicates required texts):

Augustine, Sarah. *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. 2021.

**Blackhawk, Ned. *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of American History*. 2023.

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. 1970.

Charles, Mark and Soong-Chan Rah. *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*. 2019.

Charleston, Steven and E. Robinson, *Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native Christian Theology*. 2015.

Charleston, Steven. *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations of Hope and Courage*. 2021.

Charleston, Steven. *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus*. 2015.

**Charleston, Steven. *Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder*. 2023.

Charleston, Steven. *We Survived the End of the World: Lessons from Native America...*2023.

Deloria, Ella Cara. *Water Lily*. 1988.

Deloria, Jr, Vine. *God is Red: A Native View of Religion*. 30th Anniversary Edition. 2003.

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*. 2014.

Estes, Nick. *Our History Is the Future*. 2019.

Hämäläinen, Pekka. *Indigenous America: The Epic Contest for North America*. 2022.

Hämäläinen, Pekka. *Lakota America: A New History of Indigenous Power*. 2019.

Lajimodiere, Denise K. *Stringing Rosaries: The History, the Unforgiveable, and the Healing...*2019.

Tinker, George E. *American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty*. 2008.

Tinker, George E. *Missionary Conquest: The Gospel & Native American Cultural Genocide*. 2008.

Treuer, David. *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present*. 2019.

Woodley, Randy S. *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*. 2012.

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Fall Semester 2025