

Course Syllabus	
Title of course:	Native American. An Introduction into the Aboriginal Cultures and Religions of the Americas
Code:	MVT 99...; MAA 99...
Mode of grading:	home paper submitted electronically at the address below
Time:	
Venue:	
Weekly number of classes:	2x45 minutes = 1 class of 90 minutes
Credits:	3 for Hungarian students / 6 for Erasmus exchange students and other international students
Instructor's name:	dr.habil. Miklós Vassányi PhD vassanyi.miklos@kre.hu +36308319382
Instructor's position:	associate professor

Course Description

This English-language course focuses on how certain Native Americans nations – especially the Inuit, the Dakota, the Natchez, and Peruvian Aboriginals – have been depicted in the earliest written sources by themselves or by others. An effort has been made to rely on such early written sources as represent significant aspects of Native American life, that is, more specifically, of culture, history, and religion at large. Geographically highlighted areas will be the Labrador coastline; the Midwest; the Southeast; and the Peruvian Highlands. Students are expected to attend class (three absences are tolerated); to electronically submit a paper, based on individual research concerning a relevant written primary source, two weeks before the end of the examination period at the latest; and to have their choice approved by the instructor beforehand. Lessons will consist of reading and analyzing bits of early documents describing Aboriginal life and discussions about them. Active student participation is expected.

A félév órái

	Dátum:	Téma:
1.	Febr.	The High Arctic: Martin Frobisher (1576–1578)
2.	Febr.	The High Arctic: Henry Hudson (1610–11)
3.	March	The High Arctic: William Baffin (1612)
4.	March	The Labrador coastline: John Davis (1586)
5.	March	The Labrador coastline: John Knight (1606)
6.	March	The Labrador coastline: Jean Bourdon (1657); Médard Chouart – Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1682–83)
7.	April	The Labrador coastline: Antoine Silvy (1684); Louis Jolliet (1694)
8.	April	The Labrador coastline: Nicolas Jérémie (1720); Louis Fornel (1743); François-Étienne Cugnet and Guillaume Estèbe (1744)
	April	<i>Spring break – No class</i>
9.	April	The Midwest: Dakota culture and religion
10.	May	The Southwest: Natchez culture and religion: du Pratz: <i>Histoire de la Louisiane</i> (1758)
11.	May	Peruvian Highlands: Pre-Inca cultures and religions
12.	May	Peruvian Highlands: Pre-Inca cultures and religions

Recommended reading:

Brown, Dee: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1970.

McCoy, Robert R. – Fountain, Steven M.: *History of American Indians. Exploring Diverse Roots*. Santa Barbara – Denver: Greenwood, 2017.

Sutton, Mark Q.: *An Introduction to Native North America*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2016.

Optional reading (for readers of Hungarian):

Vassányi Miklós: *Szellembívók és áldozárok. Sámánység, istenképzetek, emberáldozat az inuit (eszkimó), azték és inka vallások írásos forrásaiban*. Budapest: KRE-L'Harmattan, 2017, 9-186.