

Course Code	Course Title	L	T	P	C
PHD19011	Religion, Eco-poetics , Engaged Spirituality	4	0	0	4

### Unit I: Indigenous Spirituality and Institutionalised Religion

Exploring the collision between Christianity as institutional and organized religion and native American spirituality, its effects on political and social life of aboriginals in USA. The following paper will be studied closely to examine specific issues in this context:

Beaman, Lori G, 'Aboriginal Spirituality and the Legal Construction of Freedom of Religion', *Journal of Church and State* (2002)

### Unit II: Indigenous Spirituality and Colonisation

Understanding the colonial paradigms of knowledge formation with respect to indigenous religions and the contemporary postcolonial debates on discourses and narratives. For this study, the following paper will be studied in depth:

Vernon, Irene S, 'The Claiming of Christ: Native American Postcolonial Discourses', *MELUS* (1999)

### Unit III: Women and Indigenous Spirituality

Close analysis of women's indigenous spirituality to examine their status and hermeneutical approaches. The following paper will be studied closely:

Marcos, Sylvia, 'Mesoamerican Women's Indigenous Spirituality: Decolonising Religious Beliefs', *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (2009)

### Unit IV: Shamanism: Theory and Practice

Understanding shamanic philosophy, worldviews , techniques and practices with special emphasis on North American and Indian systems. For this study, certain sections from Mircea Eliade's *Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy* will be studied:

Chapter 9: Shamanism in North and South America: The Shamanic Séance in North America, Shamanic Healing among the Paviotso

Chapter 11: Shamanic Ideologies and Techniques among the Indo-Europeans: Shamanic Symbolism and Techniques in India, Shamanism among the Aboriginal Tribes of India

### Unit V:Healing Modalities

Reading literary and musical texts of popular shamanistic healing modalities in USA to understand the use of symbolism, rhythm and chants as poetic devices. The following will be studied closely:

Music: Songs of Tony Redhouse (album Deep Within)

Chants: Selections from *The Path on the Rainbow: An Anthology of Songs and Chants from the Indians of North America*

**Suggested Readings:**

Buscher, Wolfgang. *Asian Absences: Searching for Shangri-La* (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2001)

Eliade, Mircea. *Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy* (NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004)

Mc Gaa, Ed. *Mother Earth Spirituality: Native American Paths to Healing Ourselves and our World* (Harper, 1990)

**Assessment:**

Candidate will be assessed based on written papers and/or oral presentations followed with a written examination.