

**YEE P'AY GYAH MAW TAME AIM**  
**INST 2883: Kiowa Clemente Course in the Humanities**  
**University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma**  
**Spring 2021 Syllabus**  
**Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30**

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**Faculty Contacts:**

Rachel Jackson (405) 205-6048

**Elder Instructor:**

Dorothy Whitehorse DeLaune (405) 638-2593

**Mission**

The mission of the USAO Kiowa Clemente Course is to offer a cross-cultural, introductory Liberal Arts course for members of the Kiowa tribe that aims first at preserving Kiowa language and cultural knowledge among members of the tribal community. This course also promotes academic interest, particularly in Native Studies, by introducing students to a higher education environment and encouraging the development of strategies and behavior conducive to academic success.

The course raises the enduring, fundamental questions that characterize the Humanities disciplines. Classes will seek to encourage both student and faculty insight into Kiowa perspectives on various topics, prioritizing Kiowa language, culture, history, traditions, stories, songs, and experience.

As a college course, the class empowers students to think critically, to play a fuller role as active tribal and community members, and to pass on cultural knowledge and tribal perspectives on critical issues to other members of the surrounding communities. Student readings and reflective writings, and class discussions on selected topics will cross several academic fields in the humanities. These fields are: Art & Music; History; Philosophy; Literature; and Law. The Instructors and Kiowa elders will work together to guide students through readings, reflective writing exercises, Kiowa oral tradition and tribal practices, and other resources. Student perspectives and voices will always be honored as an important part of class content and discussion.

Finally, the class supports the [kiowatalk.org](http://kiowatalk.org) website. [kiowatalk.org](http://kiowatalk.org) is a living archive housed online that includes videos featuring language, stories, and songs to help both students and website visitors learn more about Kiowa culture. Students will help develop content for the website project as part of their participation in class.

**Language Aspect**

Throughout this course, the study of Kiowa culture and tradition will be interwoven with Kiowa language practice. Language lessons are led by Dorothy Whitehorse DeLaune. Each class will include instruction in and practice with spoken Kiowa using the writing method of Alecia Keahbone Gonzales in her book *Thaum Khoiye Tdoen Gyah: Beginning Kiowa Language*. Language practice includes speaking, singing, and conversational skits.

**Cultural Aspect**

Each class night also includes cultural discussions. Language practice, reading and/or writing assignments will be given as preparation for the following week.

Additionally, we will be discussing readings dealing with Kiowa culture, law & status practices, history, and philosophy. We will also plan at least one trip to visit cultural sites during the semester.

Student interest and community input is a crucial factor in designing the class. If there is a topic students would like to discuss, we will do our best to make room for it in the class.

Finally, as suggested by the Kiowa Elders who helped design this course when it first began over ten years ago, we begin each class with a prayer and a meal to honor traditional Kiowa practice. Please feel free to contribute a dish or a beverage when you are able.

### **Enrollment**

As part of its ongoing commitment to the Native community around campus, USAO offers free college credit for students who are not already enrolled in regular courses on the USAO campus.

Each semester is worth 3 hours of 2000-level (sophomore-level) Indian Studies credit, up to a total of 6 hours for two semesters. Enrollment forms will be distributed the first night of class only. Community members not interested in enrolling for the course credit may also attend class without being obligated to fulfill course requirements.

### **Class Design**

Each week, class will be organized as follows:

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.: Prayer, meal, and conversation.

6:45 – 8:00 p.m.: Language practice and/or reading discussion, depending on the course calendar.

8:00 – 8:10 p.m.: Break

8:10 – 9:00 p.m.: Language practice and/or reading discussion, depending on the course calendar.

In order to make the most of our time together, we encourage everyone to arrive prior to 6:00 p.m. and be ready to start on time. We encourage those contributing to the meal to arrive at 5:30 to 5:45 so we can have the food ready to go.

### **Course Video-Recording**

The course will be filmed by USAO to preserve in a video archive accessible to the public. Each week's class is filmed and edited by USAO.

### **Age Requirement**

In order to maintain an environment conducive to college-level learning, we must limit the age of those who attend to high school and up, with the minimum grade-level requirement being students currently enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Required Materials**

### **To be provided by students:**

- A notebook within which to keep class notes, reflective writing assignments and course handouts.

### **To be provided to students for use during class only:**

- Gonzales, Alecia. *Thaum Khoiye Tdoen Gyah: Beginning Kiowa Language*.
  - Because of major budget cuts, we ask any students who already have copies of the text to please use them in class. Otherwise, photocopies from the book will be distributed in class. We will not be able to provide copies of the book to students this semester. Copies of the book are available at the USAO Campus Bookstore. The book costs approximately \$30.00. A few book are available for sale at the class site. Please see the Instructor.

### **To be provided to students:**

- Photocopies of other various assigned readings to be handed out throughout the semester.

## **Grading**

The final grade for students who enroll for college credit is based on the following breakdown of points:

Attendance	20% (20 points)
Questions	40% (40 points)
Preparation (Language Practice & Reading Assignments)	20% (20 points)
Participation (Video Conversations)	20% (20 points)
TOTAL	100% (100 points)

## **Attendance Policy and Classroom Environment**

Enrolled students are expected to attend 85% of the class sessions, which means they should miss no more than three classes throughout the course of the semester. Tardies are understandable on occasion, but enrolled students are expected to arrive before class and be prepared to start on time.

We hope to foster a friendly atmosphere in the class so that everyone feels welcome to join in the conversation, ask questions, share insights, and practice the language. Enrolled students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions in order to pass the class.

## **Kiowa Oral Tradition, Language, and Differing Perspectives:**

Kiowa language and stories differ across the different locations in the KCA reservation. Each family's versions are valuable to the perseverance of tribal culture and knowledge, and will be welcomed and respected in this class.

## **Notice**

If you are enrolled in this class, and are not enrolled in any other courses on the USAO campus, you should not receive a bill for the Kiowa Clemente Course. If this is your situation and you

receive a bill, please notify Rachel Jackson the Office of Academic Affairs at USAO, so the campus can correct the situation.

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## COURSE CALENDAR

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### WEEK ONE

January 14th: Discuss syllabus; Introductions; Course Enrollment

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### WEEK TWO

January 21st: Review of basic sounds – pp. 26 - 34 of *Beginning Kiowa Language*; read and discuss “Who Saynday Is and What He Did” and begin “The Saynday-Does-Good Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. vii – 36.

**Reminder: Remember you can use [kiowatalk.org](http://kiowatalk.org) to review the basic sounds and practice the language.**

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### WEEK THREE

January 28th: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “The Saynday-Does-Good Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 1 - 31.

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### WEEK FOUR

February 4th: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “The Saynday-Does-Good Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 1 - 31.

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### WEEK FIVE

February 11th: Kiowa language lesson; read and discuss “The Saynday-Makes-Trouble Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 37 – 82.

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### WEEK SIX

February 18th: Kiowa language lesson; read and discuss “The Saynday-Makes-Trouble Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 37 – 82.

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### WEEK SEVEN

February 25th: Kiowa language lesson; read and discuss “The Saynday-Makes-Trouble Stories” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 37 – 82.

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**WEEK EIGHT**

March 4th: Kiowa language lesson; read and discuss “The Saynday-Makes-Trouble Stories” and “The End of Saynday” from Alice Marriott’s *Winter-Telling Stories*, pp. 37 – 83.

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**WEEK NINE**

March 11th: Kiowa language lesson; read and discuss “About the Kiowas” from Alice Marriott’s *The Ten Grandmothers*, pp.vii-xii and begin reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94.

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**WEEK TEN**

March 18th: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94.

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**WEEK ELEVEN**

March 25th: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94.

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**WEEK TWELVE**

April 1st: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94.

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**WEEK THIRTEEN**

April 8th: Kiowa language lesson; continue reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94.

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**WEEK FOURTEEN**

April 15th: Kiowa language lesson; reading and discussing “Part I: The Time When There Were Plenty of Buffalo,” pp. 3 – 94; end-of-the-semester review.

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