

The 2010 Puterbaugh Class Featuring Sherman Alexie

Spring 2010 • Instructor: Dr. Joshua B. Nelson

The University of Oklahoma is uncommonly fortunate this year to have *World Literature Today* hosting Sherman Alexie as this year's Puterbaugh fellow. Alexie will visit the OU campus March 25-26, 2010, offering students in the Puterbaugh seminar an unparalleled opportunity to interact personally with today's preeminent writer of American Indian literature. The author of several novels, screenplays, short stories, and poetry collections, Alexie's work explores topics of identity, tradition, family, dysfunction, and more with an honesty at once poignant in its insight and hilarious in its delivery. Our discussions will be guided by themes of movement, violence, and exploration as we read across the trajectory of Alexie's career. Given his recent emphasis on young-adult literature, we will also discuss how his work might fit into a secondary classroom and how our own research might facilitate curriculum development as a way of reaching a broader audience with relevant scholarship.

Readings include:

- *The Business of Fancydancing*
- *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*
- *Indian Killer*
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
- *War Dances*

The first two books will need to be read before the first meeting on **February 25**. We will also read selections from other works and relevant criticism. Attendance is required at all conference activities March 25-26, including the keynote speech, film festival, panel sessions, and banquet. Students will write a final paper, graduate students one of greater length.

The course will meet six times:

- February 25, 5:30-8:00pm, Traditions Room (OMU 230)
- March 4, 5:30-8:00pm, History of Science Collections, 5th floor, Bizzell Library
- March 11, 5:30-8:00pm, Traditions Room (OMU 230)
- March 23, 5:30-8:00pm, Traditions Room (OMU 230)
- April 1, 5:30-8:00pm, Traditions Room (OMU 230)
- April 8, 5:30-8:00pm, Traditions Room (OMU 230)

The class may be taken for undergraduate (ENGL 4950 or MLLL 4950) or graduate credit (ENGL 5960). For more general information and permission to enroll, please send a request, including your student ID number, to the course instructor, Joshua Nelson (325-5067, joshuabnelson@ou.edu), and also check the *World Literature Today* website (www.ou.edu/worldlit) for periodic updates and for information on available fellowships and book allowances.