

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): Part-Time Indian: Reading Sherman Alexie

Course title (Hebrew):

אינדיאני לסירוגין: קריאה בשרמן אלכסי

Course number: 132.1.0374

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): second semester, Tuesday, 2-4

Lecturer: Dr. Yael Ben-zvi

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details: Office hours by appointment.
yaelbz@bgu.ac.il

Course description & objectives:

This class will introduce students to the work of the popular contemporary writer Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene). We will examine Alexie's written works across genres by reading three of his novels (*Indian Killer*, 1996, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, 2007, and *Flight*, 2003), a number of his short stories, and a selection of his poetry. We will consider Alexie's creative treatment of poetic forms and genres in relation to his complex, humorous representations of Indian life in the United States. We will examine Alexie's literary representations of the history of colonization; Indian resistance and resignation to US rule; Indian reservations as communal homes and sites of settler colonial violence; the multiple meanings and uses of Indianness in the contemporary United States and popular culture; and issues such as racism, poverty, capitalism, and alcoholism.

Course requirements:

Attendance is required.

Participation: 10%

Short exercises: 30%

Final paper: 60%

Topics & bibliography

- (Short) Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies (including a few short texts)
- Various works by Alexie (the three novels mentioned above, short stories, and poems)
- Critical discussions of literary genres; representations and perceptions of history; and the topic listed above