ENST 491  
**Nature and Native Americans**  
Instructor: Rosalyn LaPier

This course will explore how Native Americans viewed nature and how their understanding of the environment informed their relationships with the natural world. We will focus primarily on Native peoples of the Northern Great Plains before significant contact with non-Native society.

This course will be taught seminar style, which means we will discuss selected readings for each class. Students are expected to have not only completed their readings but also thought about key themes, and to come to class prepared to actively participate in a discussion of ideas. We will explore such questions as the following: what is the relationship between humans and their environment? How do belief systems inform human behavior toward the natural world? What types of relationships existed between humans and others (plants, animals, or the landscape)?

ENST 491 will be engaging and challenging. Together as a class we will also discuss different forms of evidence, analytical methods and how to reconstruct the past. Written assignments will include in-class assignments and several academic essays that further explore the ideas we discussed in class and through the readings.

ENST 594  
**Environmental Issues of Native Americans**  
Instructor: Rosalyn LaPier

This course will provide a historic overview of federal policies toward Native peoples and the environmental issues they engendered during the 19th and 20th centuries, focusing on three topics: land, water, and minerals.

This is a graduate readings seminar that provides an overview of the literature regarding environmental issues and Native peoples. It will be interdisciplinary, focusing on both classic and current literature, written by journalists, anthropologists, historians, ecologists and others. We will address several questions during the course of the semester. What are the major environmental issues within Native communities both historically and currently? What is the role of Environmental Studies in relation to Native peoples and environmental issues?

ENST 594 will build on the adage “Knowledge is power,” one goal of the course is for students to conduct significant reading, reflection and analysis. Together students will read a common core of books and individually they will report to the class on additional books. Advocacy and action begin with knowledge. The more one knows the more one can do to enact positive change.

Rosalyn LaPier is a new faculty member of the Environmental Studies program. She is trained in Physics, Religious Studies and Environmental History. She is a member of the Blackfeet tribe from Montana.