

# *Sacred Sites of Northern New Mexico*

**UHON 302-015 | M | 5:00-7:30 | SHC 22 | 41007**

**Fulfills A&S Group IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Dr. Ned O'Malia



Northern New Mexico is home to a variety of religious traditions, indigenous, traditional, new age, Eastern and Western, from Native American to Hindu, from Muslim to Catholic Monastery. This experiential pro active seminar explores these religious traditions, often by participating in spiritual practice and dialogue with members of various communities.

We reside at three distinct spiritual communities: Lama Foundation, Owl Peak, and Ghost Ranch where we enter into the life rhythm of each sharing time, meals, conversation and emotion with the people committed to these communities. Sites to be visited in addition to the three residences are KSK Tibetan Stupa, Neem Karoli Baba Ashram (Hindu), Dar Al Islam village (Islamic), Christ in the Desert Monastery (Roman Catholic), St. Escipula Morada (Penitente), Two Spirit Lodge (Native American), 3HO Community (Sikh), El Santuario de Chimayo (Roman Catholic), Shrine to the Feminine, (Earth based Feminist). All visitations are conditioned on the spiritual calendar of the community.

Students should have patience, a deep interest in the rich variety of religious practice and a sense of humor. We come not only to witness and record but to enter into the labor and celebration of each community. We come to listen and to dialogue with members. Students will record each day's experiences in a Workbook annotated with photos and graphics. These Workbooks have become treasured keepsakes of this unique spiritual journey.

Class meetings will be scheduled in the second eight weeks of the semester. Field experience from May 24 to June 1, eight nights, nine days. A deposit of \$150 is required to hold your spot in this seminar. For questions: 505.255.8898 or nedomalia@yahoo.com

## **Readings**

There is no one book or even several books which could cover the diversity of the traditions of northern New Mexico. Our basic reading material is a compendium of web page sites of the communities we visit. These sites offer the history, guidelines, beliefs and life style of the pertinent community.

Recommended readings: Be Here Now, Baba Ram Das (Dr. Richard Alpert), World Religions, Huston Smith.

Photocopies of somewhat archaic articles will also be distributed.

Video presentations on each of the sites to be visited and of spiritual teachers and leaders will be viewed and discussed.

## **Requirements**

A research paper on an aspect of the spiritual culture of northern New Mexico is required. Each student will complete an annotated Workbook on daily reflections, experiences and communities visited. The Workbook should have a minimum of 25 photos or graphics. Participation in all group activities is expected. A sense of adventure and "people skills" are quite helpful. We travel together with open minds and open hearts to learn and experience as much as possible.

## **About the Instructor**

Edwin Ned O'Malia is a PhD in Asian Religions. He has taught within the Honors Program for over 25 years. He also serves as a Tour Director for international trips and as a New Mexico State Fair food judge. Dr. O'Malia spends extensive time each year with the spiritual communities to be visited; thus Sacred Sites in not only a seminar; it is a major portion of Ned O'Malia's life.

## **About the Student Teacher**

Michelle Wallentine is currently pursuing a major in civil engineering. She greatly enjoys traveling and cooking, which she believes are both great ways to learn about different cultures and traditions. A native New Mexican and veteran of the Sacred Sites 2010 seminar, she is eager to share her experiences with fellow honors students. After graduation, Michelle plans to pursue graduate studies in water resources engineering.