



# HUMAN/NATURE: SUMMER 2015

“Human/Nature: Coast Salish Perspectives on Being Human in Nature based in Story, Art and the Environment” is a Summer a-term class in the Department of American Indian Studies, offered by instructors Roger Fernandes and Cynthia Updegrave. 5 credits, I&S, MTWTh 3:00 - 500. SLN 10052

## ABOUT THE CLASS

At their heart, Coast Salish Transformer stories teach about preparing the world for the people to come. What can these mythic stories teach us about being human in the context of the natural world? The stories ask us to compare and contrast world views of humans living within nature and those that consider humans outside of nature. Can we define our own connection with the natural world through our modern stories? Is it consistent with the teachings of the indigenous people’s myths and, if not, how to we explain the differences?

The [Waterlines Project Map](#) will provide a visualization of the natural world as it existed at the time of the treaties. Storytelling is central to this learning experience. In class we will focus on stories such as the Epic of North Wind’s Fishing Weir; Moon the Transformer; Tootsaleetsa is a Leader; and the Maiden of Deception Pass.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Learning will be enriched with a visit to a site associated with a story. Further connections will be made through art-making; experience of traditional songs; geology, plant and ecosystem study; and community relationships.

This course is meant to honor the Living Breath of [wələbʔaltxʷ](#), a place designed to ground our exploration of story on campus; and set into the rich complex of stories that hold us here in the Salish Sea and connect us to the Cosmos.

Waterlines: <http://bit.ly/1wEXmIQ>

wələbʔaltxʷ: <http://bit.ly/1c7VUQa>

**Summer Quarter at UW is open to everyone! For more information and add codes, email [native@uw.edu](mailto:native@uw.edu).**



THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

