LING 476/576—Indigenous Knowledge
Instructor: Gregory Cajete, PhD (University of New Mexico)

This course will explore selected topics, issues, and processes related to Science in Native American Education. Curriculum planning and development using the seminar format will form the foundation for this exploration. Special emphasis will be placed on creating a personalized philosophical foundation and approach to the design and implementation of science learning and cross-cultural understanding in a Native American education context. The thematic areas that will be used to guide our exploration include the nature of program ideology and orientation; dispositions toward culturally based science teaching; importance of gaining cultural knowledge; and classroom practice.

Given these parameters, the following topics will be addressed through the course of study:

- Science in Native American communities
- The reality of culturally-based science in Native American education
- Developing a personal philosophy of culturally-based science education
- Designing and planning culturally responsive science curricula
- Creative strategies for culturally responsive science teaching
- Essential issues in cultural responsive science education
- Trends in educational reform of science education in Native American education
- International developments in Indigenous science education
- Issues of educational equity
- Language and issues of culturally sensitive materials in Indigenous science education
- Native American cultural issues in educational testing and assessment
- Multicultural science curriculum issues, trends, and practices.

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Gregory Cajete, Native American educator whose work is dedicated to honoring the foundations of indigenous knowledge in education. Dr. Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. He has served as a New Mexico Humanities scholar in ethnobotany of Northern New Mexico and as a member of the New Mexico Arts Commission. In addition, he has lectured at colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, England, Italy, Japan and Russia.

Currently, he is Director of Native American Studies and an Associate Professor in the Division of Language, Literacy and Socio cultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Cajete earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from New Mexico Highlands University with majors in both Biology and Sociology and a minor in Secondary Education. He received his Masters of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in Adult and Secondary Education. He received his Ph.D. from International College – Los Angeles New Philosophy Program in Social Science Education with an emphasis in Native American Studies.