



Nancy Marashio

Nancy Marashio, a Claremont, New Hampshire native, has taught Native American courses since 1977 in her middle school, high school, community college and now Adventures in Learning classes. Her interest in the Native American trickster began when she interviewed the Penobscot chief on Indian Island, Maine, and was introduced to stories of Glooscap, the Penobscot trickster.

Native American Tricksters

Study Leader: Nancy Marashio

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

8 weeks beginning January 22

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 15

“In Native American stories, Trickster takes center stage.”

–Erdoes and Ortiz

Trickster experts laud the wonderful range of trickster stories: serious, funny, mischievous, naughty, allegorical. Tricksters themselves are crafty creators who disrupt the order of things, often humiliating others and sometimes themselves in the process.

Anthropologist Paul Radin, in his 1956 book *The Trickster: A Study in American Indian Mythology*, insists, “Only if we view [the trickster] as an attempt by man to solve his problems inward and outward, does the trickster figure become intelligible and meaningful.” Whether presented as a jester, a god or an animal such as Coyote or Raven, “trickster is at one and the same time creator and destroyer, giver and negator, he who dupes others and is always duped himself. He wills nothing consciously. At all times he is constrained to behave as he does by impulses over which he has no control. He knows neither good nor evil, yet he is responsible for both. He possesses no values, moral or social, is at the mercy of his passions and appetites, yet through his actions all values come into being.”

In this class, the Native American trickster will be studied through stories told according to tradition, celebrating the sacredness of all.

Required Text:

American Indian Trickster Tales

Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz

ISBN: 978-0-14-027771-5

This text can be purchased through Birchbark Books by [clicking here](#).