ARTS ONE - FIRST NATIONS

Land, Sea and Spirit
A Comparison of First Nations and Western Ways

Arts One-First Nations is a new first-year university program of education in the liberal arts (the humanities and social sciences) at Nanaimo and Cowichan campuses of Malaspina University-College. The program is intended especially for First Nations students, but it is open to others who have an interest in the comparison of First Nations and Western cultures.

Organized as one class with a team of instructors who share responsibility for all aspects of the program, Arts One-First Nations comprises lectures, seminars and tutorials.

The theme for the Arts One-First Nations is Land, Sea and Spirit, and the curriculum is deliberately bicultural, with emphasis on both Western and First Nations traditions. Ellen White, an elder of the Nanaimo First Nation, puts the importance of bicultural education for her people in this way:

"To be all grown up, the old people say we must have both hands full: in one hand the knowledge of the white man, in the other hand the knowledge of the people. If both hands are not full, we are lopsided. We must find balance."