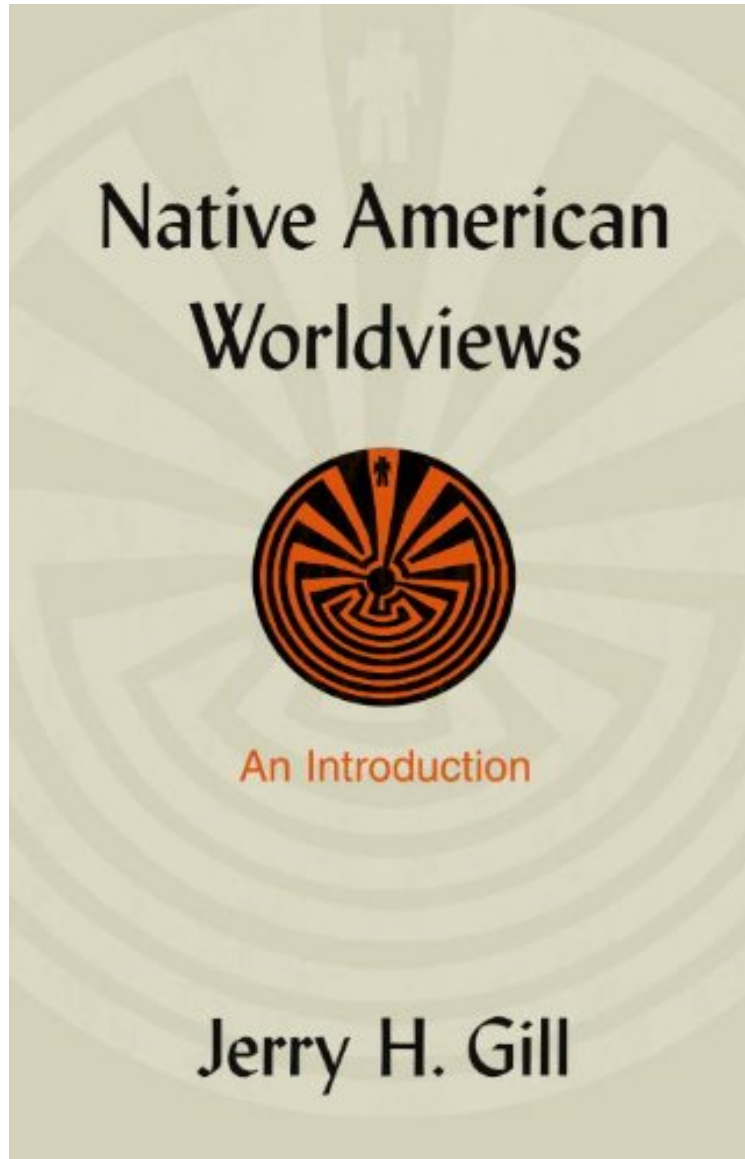


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Native American Worldviews: An Introduction

Jerry H. Gill

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Is Red" by Vine Deloria Jr. to be excellent. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Loved itBy mic2536I purchased this item for a Native American Literature class in college, and ended up reading it cover to cover during the first week or two simply because it was so interesting. Well written and easily understood, I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Native American cultures.

In this excellent survey of Native American worldviews, philosopher of religion Jerry H. Gill emphasizes the value of tracing the overarching themes and broad contours of Native American belief systems. He presents an integrated view to serve as an introduction to ways of life and perspectives on the world far different from those of the dominant Euro-American culture. Drawing on the scholarship of anthropologists and specialists in American Indian Studies, Gill brings together much original research in broad, accessible chapters. He explores Native American origin stories, the special connotations given to spatial concepts such as the cardinal directions and the circle, the influence of the seasons and the cycles of life on different cultures, and clan and kinship systems. Separate chapters are devoted to key ceremonies and customs as well as to concepts of health, harmony, virtues, wisdom, and beauty. The final chapter considers the devastating effects on native peoples of the European incursion into North America. Gill discusses the reservation system, attempts at assimilation and resistance, the recent renaissance of American Indian cultures, and prospects for the future. A valuable appendix presents a representative sampling of Native American writings on beliefs and origin stories. This excellent introduction to the many diverse yet related American Indian worldviews will be a welcome resource for teachers of introductory courses in Native American Studies or philosophy of religion, as well as laypersons with an interest in native cultures.

"...an excellent introduction to Native spirituality for a general reader...Recommended." -- Choice, June 2003
From the Publisher "Jerry Gill has effectively organized work from anthropology, philosophy, and religious studies into a highly readable and useful format that goes beyond the disciplinary boundaries and attempts to situate us within Native American worldviews. I found his book to be a treasure." -- Theresa A. Vaughan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Humanities and Philosophy, University of Central Oklahoma
About the Author Jerry H. Gill (Vail, AZ) is professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY, and the author of 16 books and more than 100 articles on philosophy and religion.