

## AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

### American Indian Studies

*Closest affiliation to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences*

*American Indian Studies Program*

Trafton North 335 • 507-389-3224

Email: rhonda.dass@mnsu.edu

Director: Rhonda Dass

American Indian Studies provides an interdisciplinary and broad understanding of American Indians, especially the Dakota, and their respective ways of life in the past, present, and future. AIS welcomes all students—Native and non-Native—to pursue knowledge of American Indian cultures, languages, histories, politics, media, and other topics. The AIS program will prepare students to pursue graduate studies and careers located in tribal communities or in ethnically diverse settings. Furthermore, by incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum, AIS facilitates a space whereby American Indian worldviews will be an enduring and integral part of the diverse intellectual atmosphere at the University.

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

Admission to Major is granted by the American Indian Studies Program. American Indian Studies adheres to the minimum University admission requirements: 1) a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours and 2) a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 ("C").

#### AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES BS

##### Required Prerequisites for Major

ETHN	100	American Racial Minorities (3)
ETHN	101	Introduction to Multicultural & Ethnic Studies (3)

##### Required for Major

AIS	230	American Indians of Minnesota (3)
ETHN	202W	Perspectives on American Indians (3)
ETHN	402	Ethnic Research Methods/Skills (3)
ETHN	430	American Indian Studies (3)

##### Required Major Restricted Electives (Outside Ethnic Studies) (9 credits)

ANTH	331	Environmental Anthropology (3)
ANTH	334	Native American Cultures of North America (3)
ANTH	410	Archaeology of Minnesota (3)
ANTH	411	Archaeology of Native North America (3)
ENG	318	Multicultural Literature (2-4)
ENG	436	Native American Literature (2-4)
HUM	281W	Human Diversity and Humanities Traditions (4)
LAW	234	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
PHIL	115W	Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)
POL	426	Racial and Ethnic Politics (3)

##### Required Major Restricted Electives (Within Department) (12 credits)

AIS	220	Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS	340	American Indians in Film (3)
AIS	370	American Indian Spirituality (3)
AIS	380	The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS	460	Behaving Like Relatives (3)
ETHN	299	Individual Study (1-3)
ETHN	300	American Indian Leaders (3)
ETHN	499	Individual Study (1-3)

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

##### AIS 220 (3) Tribal Sovereignty

This course addresses historical and contemporary concerns in American Indian politics, emphasizing traditional governance, US governmental power over American Indians, and contemporary Native resurgence in tribal politics.

Alt-Fall

Diverse Cultures - Purple

##### AIS 230 (3) American Indians of Minnesota

This course will provide overview of Minnesota Indian nations and their relations to each other and the effects of European incursion. Subsequent relations will focus on the US-Dakota war and its aftermath.

Fall

Diverse Cultures - Purple

##### AIS 340 (3) American Indians in Film

This course examines American Indian identity as it relates to Hollywood film industry history. Underlying issues of contemporary Indians are also addressed through an introduction to Native Cinema and the effects of current technologies and globalization.

Fall

Diverse Cultures - Purple

##### AIS 355 (3) Museum Science and American Indians

Introduces students to museum science and how historic constructs, practices, and contemporary issues of the museum as an institution relates to the representation of American Indians. Focus will be on translating western practices to a Indigenous aesthetic.

Spring

##### AIS 370 (3) American Indian Spirituality

The objective of this course is to address the traditional spiritual beliefs of American Indians by reviewing numerous ceremonial and spiritual activities either carried out by individuals or performed in a group setting.

Alt-Spring

Diverse Cultures - Purple

##### AIS 380 (3) The Sacred Landscape

This course introduces Identification/Typing System for Traditional Cultural Property Sites (IT-TCPS), a predictive field methodology to identify Indian cultural property sites. Based upon Lakota oral tradition, it reflects Indian use of land to conduct cultural activities in specific settings.

Spring

Diverse Cultures - Purple

##### AIS 460 (3) Behaving Like Relatives

Students gain practical knowledge of fieldwork techniques and experience through experiential learning. Students learn to approach elders appropriately with regards to age, social status, and gender, in order to build a cross-cultural kinship relationship i.e., to behave like relatives.

On-Demand