

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

American Indian Studies

Closest affiliation to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

American Indian Studies Program

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American Indian Studies (AIS) 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. 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

Prerequisites for Major

(Choose 3 credits)

AIS	101	Intro to American Indian Studies (3)
ETHN	101	Introduction to Multicultural & Ethnic Studies (3)

Major Common Core

AIS	220	Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS	230	American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS	460	Behaving Like Relatives (3)

(Choose 3 credits)

AIS	210	Oral Traditions (3)
AIS	210W	Oral Traditions (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives

Inside Electives (Choose 12 credits - 4 courses for a minimum of 12 credits)

AIS	110	Dakota Culture I (3)
AIS	111	Dakota Culture II (3)
AIS	240	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	275	Selected Topics (3)
AIS	340	American Indians in Film (3)
AIS	355	Museum Science and American Indians (3)
AIS	370	American Indian Spirituality (3)
AIS	380	The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS	410	American Indian Folklife (3)
AIS	475	Selected Topics (3)
AIS	497	Internship (1-12)
AIS	499	Individual Study (1-6)

Outside Electives (9 credits - 3 courses for a minimum of 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)
ETHN	100	American Racial Minorities (3)
ETHN	202W	Perspectives on American Indians (3)
ETHN	300	American Indian Leaders (3)
ETHN	430	American Indian Studies (3)

HUM	281W	Human Diversity and Humanities Traditions (4)
LAWE	234	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
PHIL	115W	Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)
POL	426	Racial and Ethnic Politics (3)

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES MINOR

Minor Core

(Choose 12 credits)

AIS	210W	Oral Traditions (3)
AIS	220	Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS	230	American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS	460	Behaving Like Relatives (3)

Minor Electives

(Choose 9 credits)

AIS	110	Dakota Culture I (3)
AIS	111	Dakota Culture II (3)
AIS	240	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	275	Selected Topics (3)
AIS	340	American Indians in Film (3)
AIS	355	Museum Science and American Indians (3)
AIS	370	American Indian Spirituality (3)
AIS	380	The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS	410	American Indian Folklife (3)
AIS	475	Selected Topics (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AIS 101 Introduction to American Indians Studies

Class introduces students to history of the discipline and surveys both historic and contemporary topics of import to American Indian Studies including gender roles, education, sovereignty, treaties, and oral tradition.

GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Purple

AIS 110 (3) Dakota Culture I

This course will provide students with tools to begin to access and understand the Dakota culture. Students will be introduced to culture and concepts through the Dakota words and learn to understand the words from a Dakota words and learn to understand the words from a Dakota Worldview.

Variable

Diverse Culture - Purple

AIS 111 (3) Dakota Culture II

This course provides students with tools to access and understand the Dakota culture. Students will expand on their introduction to the Dakota culture through continuing to understand the Dakota Worldview through language.

Variable

Diverse Culture - Purple

AIS 210 (3) Oral Traditions

Oral traditions are at the base of all American Indian cultures. This class will provide students with the necessary tools for a better understanding of traditional knowledge and its importance within diverse traditional cultures.

Variable

GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 210W (3) Oral Traditions

Oral traditions are at the base of all American Indian cultures. This class will provide students with the necessary tools for a better understanding of traditional knowledge and its importance within diverse traditional cultures.

Spring

GE-1C, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

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

GE-5, GE-7

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

GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 240 (3) American Indian Women

Being American Indian and being a woman creates a unique situation for women who have been directly influenced by the differences of gender roles from intersecting cultures. This course will focus on how those differences have affected American Indian Women.

Alt-Spring

GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 240W (3) American Indian Women

Being American Indian and being woman creates a unique situation for women who have been directly influenced by the differences of gender roles from two intersecting cultures. This course will focus on how those differences have affected American Indian Women.

Alt-Spring

GE-1C, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 275 (3) Selected Topics: Varies

The course is offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise. A variety of topics related to ethnic and cultural areas will provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

Variable

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.

Variable

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.

Variable

Diverse Cultures - Gold

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.

Variable

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 410 (3) American Indian Folklife

This course will provide students with a greater understanding of the social structure of American Indian nations through the production, reproduction and revival of traditions. This will include looking at oral, musical, kinetic, ideational, and material traditions.

Alt-Fall

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

Diverse Cultures - Gold

AIS 475 (3) Selected Topics: Varies

This course is offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise. A variety of topics related to ethnic and cultural areas will provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

Variable

AIS 497 (1-12) Internship

Field experience in setting appropriate to the discipline of American Indian Studies. Requires advanced standing in American Indian Studies and consent of supervising faculty.

Diverse Cultures - Gold

AIS 499 (1-6) Individual Study

Allows for an advanced level pursuit of special projects of research on an independent basis. Requires coordination with a faculty member.

On-Demand