

American Indian Studies

Closest affiliation to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

American Indian Studies Program

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Director: Rhonda Dass

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 BA

Prerequisites for Major

AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)

Major Common Core (Choose one course below - 3 credits)

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

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 8 credits to fulfill language series requirement for BA)

AIS 110 Dakota Culture I (4)
 AIS 111 Dakota Culture II (4)

Major Unrestricted Electives

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

AIS 240 American Indian Women (3)
 AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
 AIS 275 Selected Topics (3)
 AIS 300W American Indian Leaders (3)
 AIS 340 American Indians in Film (3)
 AIS 360 Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles (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 (Choose 9 credits)

ANTH 331 Environmental Anthropology (3)
 ANTH 440 Native American Cultures of North America (3)
 ANTH 410 Archaeology of Minnesota (3)
 ANTH 411 Archaeology of Native North America (3)
 ANTH 412 Archaeology of Latin America (3)
 ENG 318 Multicultural Literature (2-4)
 ENG 436 Native American Literature (2-4)
 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)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES BS

Prerequisites for Major

AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)

Major Common Core

AIS 220W Tribal Sovereignty (3)
 AIS 230W American Indians of Minnesota (3)
 AIS 460 Behaving Like Relatives (3)
 (Choose one course below - 3 credits)
 AIS 210 Oral Traditions (3)
 AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives

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

AIS 240 American Indian Women (3)
 AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
 AIS 275 Selected Topics (3)
 AIS 300W American Indian Leaders (3)
 AIS 340 American Indians in Film (3)
 AIS 355 Museum Science and American Indians (3)
 AIS 360 Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles (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 (Choose 9 credits)

ANTH 331 Environmental Anthropology (3)
 ANTH 410 Archaeology of Minnesota (3)
 ANTH 411 Archaeology of Native North America (3)
 ANTH 440 Native American Cultures of North America (3)
 ENG 318 Multicultural Literature (2-4)
 ENG 436 Native American Literature (2-4)
 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)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES MINOR

Minor Core

(Choose 12 credits)

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

Minor Electives

(Choose 9 credits)

AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)
 AIS 240 American Indian Women (3)
 AIS 275 Selected Topics (3)
 AIS 300W American Indian Leaders (3)
 AIS 340 American Indians in Film (3)
 AIS 360 Indigenous People and Environmental Struggles (3)
 AIS 370 American Indian Spirituality (3)
 AIS 380 The Sacred Landscape (3)
 AIS 410 American Indian Folklife (3)
 AIS 455 Museum Science and Representation (3)
 AIS 475 Selected Topics (3)
 AIS 497 Internship (1-12)
 AIS 499 Individual Study (1-6)

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Students obtain an understanding of the American Indian experience in the United States. Students begin to comprehend the vast history of native cultures and the scope of contemporary issues facing American Indian people today. The certificate program is designed to enhance a bachelors degree.

Major Restricted Electives

Foundation Courses

(Choose 6 credits)

AIS	101	Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)
AIS	210W	Oral Traditions (3)
AIS	220W	Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS	230W	American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	275	Selected Topics (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives

Expanded courses

(Choose 9 credits)

AIS	340	American Indians in Film (3)
AIS	370	American Indian Spirituality (3)
AIS	380	The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS	410	American Indian Folklife (3)
AIS	455	Museum Science and Representation (3)
AIS	460	Behaving Like Relatives (3)
AIS	475	Selected Topics (3)
ANTH	410	Archaeology of Minnesota (3)
ANTH	411	Archaeology of Native North America (3)
ANTH	440	Native American Cultures of North America (3)
ENG	318	Multicultural Literature (2-4)
ENG	436	Native American Literature (2-4)
SOC	360	Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AIS 101 (3) 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 (4) Dakota Culture I

This course provides the first steps in understanding the Dakota culture through the language of the Oyate or Dakota people. Students will be introduced to culture and concepts through the Dakota language and learn to understand the words from a Dakota worldview.

Pre: AIS 101

Variable

Diverse Culture - Purple

AIS 111 (4) Dakota Culture II

This course provides the second step in understanding the Dakota culture through the language of the Oyate or Dakota people. Students will continue to explore an understanding of culture and concepts through the Dakota language and learn to understand the words from a Dakota worldview.

Pre: AIS 101, AIS 110

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

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 220W (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

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 230W (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

WI, 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

WI, 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 300W (3) American Indian Leaders

Examines leadership prior to European colonization, the overlap of Indian and colonial leadership, contemporary governmental leadership, and contemporary tribal leadership. Define what is and is not leadership and examine characteristics of individuals deserving the title of leader among American Indians.

Variable

WI

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

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

AIS 360 (3) Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles

Introduces student to the differences between indigenous and Western views of the environment. Analyzes the impact of invasion and encroachment on indigenous societies' interactions with nature. Compares historical and contemporary environmental issues in indigenous societies.

Variable

GE-10

Diverse Cultures - Purple

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

Course introduces students to the various ways that land is used by American Indians. We will explore traditional land use, contemporary land use, and land issues that impact American Indians and cultural activities that are tied to the land.

Variable

Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 398 (0) CPT: Co-Operative Experience

Curricular Practical Training: Co-Operative Experience is a zero-credit full-time practical training experience for one summer and on adjacent fall or spring term. Special rules apply to preserve full-time student status. Please contact an advisor in your program for complete information.

Pre: At least 60 credits earned; in good standing; instructor permission; co-op contract; other prerequisites may also apply.

Fall, Spring, Summer

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 455 (3) Museum Science and Representation

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 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.

Variable

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