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 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

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)
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 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 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.

Fall
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 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

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