AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

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”).

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

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)

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)

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)
LAW 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)

COURSES OF STUDY
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

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