American Indian Studies

Closest affiliation to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
American Indian Studies Program
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Director: Rhonda Dass
Rhonda Dass, Chelsea Mead

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
Degree completion = 120 credits

Prerequisites for Major
AIS 101 Introductions to American Indian Studies (3)
AIS 102 The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (4)

Major Common Core (choose one course below - 3 credits)
AIS 220W Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS 230W American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS 460 Behaving Like Relatives (3)

Major Restricted Electives
Language
(choose one 8 credit series 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 380 The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS 410 American Indian Folklore (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 BS

Prerequisites for Major
AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)
AIS 102 The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (4)

Major Common Core
AIS 220W Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS 230W American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS 460 Behaving Like Relatives (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 380 The Sacred Landscape (3)
AIS 410 American Indian Folklore (3)
AIS 475 Selected Topics (3)
AIS 497 Internship (1-12)
AIS 499 Individual Study (1-6)

AMERICAN INDIENOUS STUDIES MINOR

Minor Core
(choose 12 credits)
AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)
AIS 220W Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty (3)
AIS 230W American Indians of Minnesota (3)
AIS 460 Behaving Like Relatives (3)
Diverse Culture - Purple

variable formations, cultural evolution, survival and negotiation are examined and shifts the perspective of the story. Topics of cross-cultural interactions, policy of others instead of from the community. This class re-examines the narrative The story of American Indian Country has often been told from the perspective of American Indian Studies including gender and contemporary topics of import to American Indian Studies. This class introduces students to history of the discipline and surveys both historic and modern movements.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Students obtain an understanding of the Indigenous American experience in the United States. Students begin to comprehend the vast history of native cultures and the scope of contemporary issues facing Indigenous Americans today. The certificate is designed to enhance any major.

Major Restricted Electives

Foundation Courses

(choose 6 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIS 101</td>
<td>Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIS 210W</td>
<td>Oral Traditions (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 220W</td>
<td>Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 230W</td>
<td>American Indians of Minnesota (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 240W</td>
<td>American Indian Women (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 275</td>
<td>Selected Topics (3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Major Unrestricted Electives

Expanded courses

(choose 9 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIS 340</td>
<td>American Indians in Film (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 380</td>
<td>The Sacred Landscape (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 410</td>
<td>American Indian Folklore (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 455</td>
<td>Museum Science and Representation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 460</td>
<td>Behaving Like Relatives (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 475</td>
<td>Selected Topics (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 410</td>
<td>Archaeology of Minnesota (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 411</td>
<td>Archaeology of Native North America (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 440</td>
<td>Native American Cultures of North America (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 318</td>
<td>Multicultural Literature (2-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 436</td>
<td>Native American Literature (2-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 360</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles (3)</td>
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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 102 (4) The Story of American Indian Country to 1900

The story of American Indian Country has often been told from the perspective of others instead of from the community. This class re-examines the narrative and shifts the perspective of the story. Topics of cross-cultural interactions, policy formations, cultural evolution, survival and negotiation are examined.

Variable

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.

Variable
W1, GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 220W (3) Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty

Course introduces students to the legal side of being American Indian. Politics and policies will be examined to show how a contemporary native experience is shaped through American courts, Presidential chambers, and Native activist movements.

Pre: AIS 101
Variable
W1, 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.

Variable
W1, 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.

Variable
GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Purple

AIS 240W (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 two intersecting cultures. This course will focus on how those differences have affected American Indian Women.

Variable
W1, GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Purple
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<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIS 275</td>
<td>Selected Topics: Varies</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 300W</td>
<td>American Indian Leaders</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 340</td>
<td>American Indians in Film</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 360</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 380</td>
<td>The Sacred Landscape</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 398</td>
<td>CPT: Co-Operative Experience</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 410</td>
<td>American Indian Folklife</td>
<td>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. Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 455</td>
<td>Museum Science and Representation</td>
<td>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 an Indigenous aesthetic. Variable Diverse Cultures - Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 460</td>
<td>Behaving Like Relatives</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 475</td>
<td>Selected Topics: Varies</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 497</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 499</td>
<td>Individual Study</td>
<td>Allows for an advanced level pursuit of special projects of research on an independent basis. Requires coordination with a faculty member. On-Demand</td>
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