

**AMERICAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES BA, BS,  
CERTIFICATE AND MINOR**

**American Indigenous Studies**

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Anthropology  
American Indigenous Studies Program  
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Director: Rhonda Dass

Faculty: Rhonda Dass, Chelsea Mead

American Indigenous Studies (AIS) provides a broad and interdisciplinary understanding of Indigenous Americans, especially the Dakota peoples, and their respective ways of life in the past, present, and future. AIS welcomes all students, Native and non-Native, to pursue knowledge of Indigenous cultures, languages, ways of knowing, histories, politics, media, and other topics. The AIS program prepares students to pursue careers in ethnically diverse settings and tribal communities or graduate work. AIS facilitates a space where Indigenous American worldviews are an enduring and integral part of the diverse intellectual atmosphere at the University.

**Academic Map/Degree Plan at [www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All)**

**POLICIES/INFORMATION**

Admission to Major is granted by the American Indigenous Studies Program. The American Indigenous Studies Program 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 INDIGENOUS STUDIES BA**

Degree completion = 120 credits

**Prerequisites for Major (Choose 1 course)**

AIS	101	Introductions to American Indigenous Studies (3)
AIS	102	The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (3)
AIS	103	The Story of American Indian Country 1900 to Present (3)

**Major Common Core**

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)

**Major Restricted Electives**

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

**Major Unrestricted Electives**

Program Electives

(choose 12 credits - 4 courses for a minimum of 12 credits)

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 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)

Outside Electives (choose 9 credits)

ANTH	331	Environmental Anthropology (3)
ANTH	410	Archaeology of Minnesota (3)
ANTH	411	Archaeology of Native North America (3)

AIS	340	American Indians in Film (3)
ENG	318	Multicultural Literature (2-4)
ENG	436	Native American Literature (2-4)
LAWE	234	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
PHIL	115W	Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)
POL	426	Racial and Ethnic Politics (3)

**Other Graduation Requirements**

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8 credits)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

**AMERICAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES BS**

**Prerequisites for Major (Choose 1 course)**

AIS	101	Introduction to American Indigenous Studies (3)
AIS	102	The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (3)
AIS	103	The Story of American Indian Country 1900 to Present (3)

**Major Common Core**

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

**Major Unrestricted Electives**

Program Electives

(choose 12 credits - 4 courses for a minimum of 12 credits)

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

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	412	Archaeology of Latin America (3)
ANTH	440	Native American Cultures of North America (3)
ENG	318	Multicultural Literature (2-4)
ENG	436	Native American Literature (2-4)
LAWE	310	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 INDIGENOUS STUDIES MINOR**

**Minor Core**

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)

**Minor Electives** (choose 9 credits)

AIS	210W	Oral Traditions (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 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 INDIGENOUS STUDIES CONTINUED

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### 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)

AIS	101	Introduction to American Indigenous Studies (3)
AIS	210W	Oral Traditions (3)
AIS	220W	Introduction to 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	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)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### AIS 101 (3) Introduction to American Indigenous Studies

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

GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### AIS 102 (3) 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 Cultures - Purple

#### AIS 103 (3) The Story of American Indian Country 1900 to Present

The story of American Indian Country has often been told from the perspective of others instead of from the community. The 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.

Fall (On Demand), Spring (On Demand), Summer (On Demand)

GE-5, GE-7

#### AIS 110 (4) Dakota Culture I

An introduction, within cultural context, to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the Dakota language

Prerequisite: AIS 101

Variable

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### AIS 111 (4) Dakota Culture II

An introduction, within a cultural context, to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the Dakota language

Prerequisite: AIS 101, AIS 110

Variable

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### AIS 201 (4) Intermediate Dakota I

Grammar review, oral practice, written composition, and development of reading and listening skills within a cultural context

Fall

GE-8

#### AIS 202 (4) Intermediate Dakota II

Grammar review, oral practice, written composition, and development of reading and listening skills within a cultural context.

Spring

GE-8

#### 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

WI, 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.

Prerequisite: AIS 101

Variable

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### AIS 230W (3) American Indians of Minnesota

This course will provide an 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

WI, GE-5, 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.

Variable

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. Defines what is and is not leadership and examine characteristics of individuals deserving the title of leader among American Indians.

Variable

WI

#### AIS 330 (3) Indigenous Education

This class introduces students to Indigenous perspectives of education, knowledge, and learning. Students will explore the historical relationships between educational institutions, policies, practices, and Indigenous communities. Through an engagement with present day efforts of educators, programs, and institutions that incorporate and engage traditional knowledges, students will develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous education and ways to promote teaching practices and pedagogies that value and support a diverse educational community.

Fall, Spring, Summer

GE-5, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### 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 360 (3) Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles**

Introduces students 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 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Variable

### **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 an 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.

Prerequisite: AIS 101 or AIS 102

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 485 (1-6) Workshop**

A brief, intensive or hands on experience based in Indigenous knowledge and methods. Variable topics.

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

### **AIS 497 (1-12) Internship**

Field experience in a 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