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.

American Indigenous Studies BA, BS, CERTIFICATE AND MINOR

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 to the Major
AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (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

Language (choose 8 credits)
Choose one 8 credit series to fulfill language series requirement for BA
AIS 110 Elementary Dakota I (4)
AIS 111 Elementary Dakota II (4)
AIS 112 Elementary Ojibwe I (4)
AIS 113 Elementary Ojibwe II (4)
AIS 201 Intermediate Dakota I (4)
AIS 202 Intermediate Dakota II (4)

Minor Unrestricted Electives
Program Electives (choose 12 credits)
Choose 4 courses for a minimum of 12 credits
AIS 211 The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (3)
AIS 212 The Story of American Indian Country from 1900 to Present (3)
AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
AIS 275 Selected Topics (3)
AIS 300W American Indian Leaders (3)
AIS 330 Indigenous Education (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)

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 436W Native American Literature (4)
LAWI 323 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 BS

Prerequisites to the Major
AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (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 Unrestricted Electives
Program Electives (choose 12 credits)
AIS 110 Elementary Dakota I (4)
AIS 111 Elementary Dakota II (4)
AIS 211 The Story of American Indian Country to 1900 (3)
AIS 212 The Story of American Indian Country from 1900 to Present (3)
AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
AIS 275 Selected Topics (3)
AIS 300W American Indian Leaders (3)
AIS 330 Indigenous Education (3)
AIS 340 American Indians in Film (3)
AIS 455 Museum Science and Representation (3)

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 436W Native American Literature (4)
LAWI 323 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)
### 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 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 112 (4) Elementary Ojibwe I**  
An introduction to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the Ojibwe language as well as non-linguistic aspects of cultural background and history.  
Fall, Spring, Summer  
G-7, GE-8  
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**AIS 113 (4) Elementary Ojibwe II**  
An introduction to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the Ojibwe language as well as non-linguistic aspects of cultural background and history.  
Fall, Spring, Summer  
G-7, GE-8  
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 211 (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 212 (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 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  
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 these 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
Diverse Cultures - Purple

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