Indigenous Studies

Indigenous Studies is a vibrant, dynamic academic discipline that provides insight into issues and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. At its heart it embraces Indigenous Knowlege, and using that as a lens, examines all facets of Indigenous Peoples worldviews, thoughts, and realities.

The Indigenous Studies program and all of its course offerings are open to all students. No matter what one's background is, there is something for every academic interest. As an interdisciplinary program, linkages are made across many disciplines.

The Indigenous Studies major and minor is designed to provide students with critical thinking skills to better navigate the complex world around us. The foundations for the program can be found in Indigenous ways of knowing and thinking as a way of examining areas of study relating to culture, history, sovereignty, tribal government, education, philosophy and the environment to name but a few.

Being located in Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) lands and waters, the course of study is centered from an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) perspective, with ascending circles encompassing the Indian Nations of what is called the United States, the First Nations, Inuit and Metis of Canada, and Indigenous Peoples throughout Central and South America and the Pacific.

The Indigenous Studies program is housed in the American Indian Resource Center (AIRC). The AIRC provides many services to American Indian students and all students taking Indigenous Studies courses, not to mention a number of community based initiatives. Learn, explore from an Indigenous lens, and welcome to Indigenous Studies.

Programs

- Indigenous Studies, B.A. *major*
- Indigenous Studies *minor*
- Indigenous Studies *cert*

Career Directions

Education
Law Enforcement
Social Services
Tribal Government
Also: Graduate Study

Indigenous Studies, B.A. *major*

Required Credits: 47
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- INST 1107 Introduction to Turtle Island (3 credits)
- INST 1202 Indigenous Environmental Current Events (3 credits)
- INST 2201 Creation to Contact (3 credits)
- INST 2202 Survivance Since Contact (3 credits)
- INST 3307 Ojibwe History (3 credits)
  or OJIB 1100 Ojibwe Culture (4 credits)
- INST 3810 Indigenous Research and Theory (3 credits)
- INST 3890 Genealogy and Clan Systems (3 credits)
- INST 4007 Spiritual Lifeways (3 credits)
- INST 4900 Social Justice (3 credits)
- INST 4908 Indigenous Research and Writing (3 credits)
- OJIB 1111 Elementary Ojibwe I (4 credits)
- OJIB 1112 Elementary Ojibwe II (4 credits)

II REQUIRED GUIDED ELECTIVES

SELECT A MINIMUM OF 9-12 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:
A MINIMUM OF 6 SEMESTER CREDITS MUST BE AT THE 3000 OR 4000 LEVEL.

- INST 3170 Indigenous Education (3 credits)
- INST 3210 Reclaiming Turtle Island (3 credits)
- INST 3317 Tribal Government and Leadership (3 credits)
- INST 3410 Advanced Ojibwe Crafts (1-4 credits)
- INST 3568 Celebrating Indigenous Art (3 credits)
- INST 3888 Indigenous Women Writers (3 credits)
- INST 4000 Nation Building and Leadership (3 credits)
- INST 4207 Indigenous Philosophy (3 credits)
- INST 4418 Federal Indian Law (3 credits)
- SOWK 3780 Family And Child Welfare (3 credits)

ADDITIONAL COURSES:

- INST 2207 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (3 credits)
- INST 2410 Ojibwe Crafts (2 credits)
- INST 2810 Anishinaabe Place Names (3 credits)

Indigenous Studies *minor*

Required Credits: 20
Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- INST 1107 Introduction to Turtle Island (3 credits)
- INST 2201 Creation to Contact (3 credits)
- INST 2202 Survivance Since Contact (3 credits)
- INST 2410 Ojibwe Crafts (2 credits)
- INST 3307 Ojibwe History (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT AT LEAST 6 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- INST 1202 Indigenous Environmental Current Events (3 credits)
- INST 2207 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (3 credits)
- INST 2810 Anishinaabe Place Names (3 credits)
- INST 3170 Indigenous Education (3 credits)
- INST 3210 Reclaiming Turtle Island (3 credits)
- INST 3317 Tribal Government and Leadership (3 credits)
- INST 3410 Advanced Ojibwe Crafts (1-4 credits)
- INST 3568 Celebrating Indigenous Art (3 credits)
- INST 3888 Indigenous Women Writers (3 credits)
- INST 3890 Genealogy and Clan Systems (3 credits)
- INST 4418 Federal Indian Law (3 credits)

Indigenous Studies *cert*

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Required Credits: 12
Required GPA: 2.00

REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- INST 1107 Introduction to Turtle Island (3 credits)
- INST 3170 Indigenous Education (3 credits)
- INST 4007 Spiritual Lifeways (3 credits)
- INST 4207 Indigenous Philosophy (3 credits)

Indigenous Studies Courses

INST 1107 Introduction to Turtle Island (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the study of American Indians from a cultural and academic perspective. The academic overview will include considerations of breadth, method of research, terminology, and principles of various disciplines that include American Indians in their fields of study. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 1202 Indigenous Environmental Current Events (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with the abilities to read and view various media sources critically. An in-depth focus on how current events have the potential to shape our lives requires "reading between the lines". Students will have the opportunity to identify the audience of various current event articles and the purpose of the articles, journalist and producer. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

INST 2201 Creation to Contact (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with a literary experience and understanding of the philosophical and mythological mindset of individual and tribal people in the Americas. And in later times, empathize with the racism and challenges that American Indian cultures had in regard to the social, economic, political, and religious policies and practices of European and American societies in the United States. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 2202 Survivance Since Contact (3 credits)
This course is designed to follow American Indians Post-contact 1887 by providing to students a literary experience and understanding of the philosophical and mythological mindset of individual and tribal people in the Americas. And in current times, empathize with the racism and challenges that American Indian cultures face in regard to the social, economic, political, and religious policies and practices of European and American societies in the United States. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 2207 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (3 credits)
This course provides an overview of the history, contemporary concerns, and contributions of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. The term Aboriginal includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, status and non-status Indians, and is inclusive of those Aboriginals living on and off reserve. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

INST 2410 Ojibwe Crafts (2 credits)
An introduction to the Ojibwe crafts in relation to their culture. Demonstration, instruction and studio experience in basketmaking, hide tanning, the making of leather goods, beading, jewelry making and quilting.

INST 2810 Anishinaabe Place Names (3 credits)
The course provided an opportunity for students to learn the Anishinaabe place names throughout Anishinaabe territory in the area of the Great Lakes (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec). Through place name research students will explore Anishinaabeg (plural) history, culture and worldview. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 2925 People of the Environment: Indigenous Knowledge Perspective (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with the ability to integrate Indigenous Studies with Environmental Studies. An in-depth focus will cover how environmental practices affect Indigenous cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own understanding of Indigenous and Environmental Studies and develop strategies that will enable them to view both disciplines interdependent of one another. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

INST 3170 Indigenous Education (3 credits)
Inquiry and analysis of the complexities of multiple standards of education in the U. S. including race class, gender, ethnicity, disability, age, nationality and religion, how they shape and are shaped by social and cultural tribal and non-tribal life in the United States will be examined. The course emphasizes the development of indigenous knowledge, critical thinking, analytical skills, and interpersonal and inter group interactions necessary for living and working in a society characterized by tribal and western mainstream diversity. Through the mindful study of small, rural schools and traditional education practices students will find a greater understanding of (tribal) others, develop self-understanding of education in the U.S. and develop understanding in relation to others- in order to promote ethical behaviors and values in education that support a diverse world. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 3210 Reclaiming Turtle Island (3 credits)
This course will provide students with a philosophical understanding of Indigenous peoples relationships to their environment (land, water, rural, and urban) that are based on traditional teachings. These relationships will be explored through the accounts of migrations, land acquisition, loss, recovery, and protection. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

INST 3307 Ojibwe History (3 credits)
The oral and written history of the People from origins to the early 20th century, analyzing the Ojibwe response to changes brought by European and American society. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 3317 Tribal Government and Leadership (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of traditional, transitional, and contemporary tribal governments based on the experiences of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) in Minnesota and other tribes. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

INST 3410 Advanced Ojibwe Crafts (1-4 credits)
Advanced study of American Indian craft media techniques and concepts geared to meet the needs of individual students and to help them develop personal direction. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisite: INST/VSAR 2410.

INST 3568 Celebrating Indigenous Art (3 credits)
Survey of American Indian Art by culture area, i.e., Northwest Coast, Plains, Sub-Arctic. Includes not only the arts and crafts of each indigenous area, but a brief consideration of the culture producing them. (Might not be offered every year.)

INST 3810 Indigenous Research and Theory (3 credits)
This course introduces student to the importance of Indigenous Research, its purposes, theories and methods. This course provides the theoretical foundation for the students senior thesis and hones their acquired research and report writing skills. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

INST 3888 Indigenous Women Writers (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of traditional qualities found in contemporary woman writers who describe the experience of native women through the lens of several generations. This work comes to play an important role in contemporary thought as the values and cultures of indigenous people rapidly reflect change in their world and the world around them. Issues that are unique to native women in our contemporary time are paralleled to native women's experiences of the past. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

INST 3890 Genealogy and Clan Systems (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with a hands-on experience with individual genealogical research and family tree development. In addition, the genealogical information may be used in conjunction with identifying specific tribal clans that are unique to each individual and their specific tribal history. An academic and cultural overview of how clan systems work is part of the course design. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

INST 4000 Nation Building and Leadership (3 credits)
This course provides students with an opportunity to analyze leadership and diverse strategies for Native nation building through the lens of development and sustainability. Prerequisites: INST 1107, and INST 2201 or INST 2202, and INST 3307 or INST 3317, or professor permission.

INST 4007 Spiritual Lifeways (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with abilities to think critically about the delivery system of outreach services such as social services, churches, schools, death and dying and western medicine. The lack of acknowledgement among the western cultures will focus on historical trauma and its implications. Traditional healings, original teachings, sacred geographies, sacred ecologies and Indigenous (philosophies) life ways will be presented. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing or by consent of instructor.

INST 4207 Indigenous Philosophy (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding and awareness of the native philosophical world views and the interface that occurs among indigenous peoples and western people. Part of this understanding is that of two worlds; one of those worlds is the native world and the other being the western world. At the heart of native existence is the spiritual ecology, natural environments, human geography, identity, Indian activism, Christian and native religious beliefs and contemporary life ways. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing or by consent of instructor.

INST 4418 Federal Indian Law (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding and awareness of the modern complexities of American Indian federal law and policies regarding diverse tribal nations in the U.S. by exploring readings by experts in the field of Federal Indian Law. The multiple shapes and shaping theories of what constitutes the identity of tribal nations and individual Indians and their recognition, limited recognition or lack of recognition in relationship to federal law and policy will be explored. (Might not be offered every year.)

INST 4900 Social Justice (3 credits)
This course examines steps that individuals and societies must take to create a more just society. Students will learn how to identify and address unequal power relations, marginalization, and racism and engage in skillful interactions that enable them to maintain their integrity within society. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing or by consent of instructor.

INST 4908 Indigenous Research and Writing (3 credits)
This course builds upon understanding the importance of conducting Indigenous research from an Indigenous perspective. Students will continue developing their research skills and produce a senior thesis. Prerequisite: INST 3810 or professor permission.

INST 4990 Thesis (3 credits)
When taken as Senior Thesis in Indian Studies, the following description applies: The course requires students, in a seminar format, to review course materials from their academic program, to gauge their future academic or vocational goals, and to write a significant paper based on their academic and future interests.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS