AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES, PROGRAM IN

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American Indian Studies (AIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign prepares students in a range of methodologies, theories, technologies, and teaching approaches that compliments a thorough undergraduate education.

Specifically, an undergraduate minor is designed to assist students in preparing for graduate school or for careers in a variety of pursuits including public and business administration, education, public relations, marketing, politics, and government, especially as they relate to American Indian and Native American constituencies. Career opportunities also exist in agencies such as Indian Health Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land Management.

For many, AIS is an ideal minor that presents a critical and intellectual foundation for success in an increasingly challenging world.

Minor in American Indian Studies

American Indian Studies (AIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is an interdisciplinary program with four subject areas:

1. Culture, Identity, Ethics, and Community
2. Sovereignty, Governance, and Politics
3. Literature, Language, and Performance
4. Colonialism, Decolonization, and Indigeneity

The courses must form a coherent program of study and be approved by an AIS advisor.

Foundation Courses

| AIS 101 | Intro to Amer Indian Studies | 3 |
| AIS 102 | Contemp Issues in Ind Country | 3 |

Subject Area Courses

Students must complete 12 hours selected from 3 of the 4 subject areas.

| Culture, Identity, Ethics, and Community |
| AIS 140 | Native Religious Traditions |
| AIS 165 | Lang & Culture Native North Am |
| AIS 288 | American Indians of Illinois |

| Sovereignty, Governance, and Politics |
| AAS 215 | US Citizenship Comparatively |
| HIST 277 | Encounters in Native America |
| HIST 278 | Native American History |
| AIS 280 | Intro to Federal Indian Policy |
| AIS 430 | Indigenous Governance |

| Literature, Language, and Performance |
| AIS 265 | Intro to American Indian Lit |
| AIS 275 | Am Indian and Indigenous Film |
| AIS 451 | Politics in Children's Lit |

Only three courses (9 hours total) at the 100-level may be counted toward the minor. Students also are required to complete two courses (6 hours) at the 300- or 400-level. These advanced course credits must be distinct from credit earned for the student's major or another minor.

AIS Class Schedule (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/AIS)

Courses

AIS 101 Intro to Amer Indian Studies credit: 3 Hours.
Interdisciplinary introduction surveys the stories, histories, and lands of tribal peoples who became known as "American Indians".
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 102 Contemp Issues in Ind Country credit: 3 Hours.
Surveys a variety of topics in contemporary American Indian life.
Focusing on the modern experience, topics may include law and politics; lands and environment; education; visual arts; languages and literatures; health; social justice; business; treaties; the sacred; gender; sports; decolonization; comparative tribal, Indian and global indigenous concerns.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Social Sciences
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 140 Native Religious Traditions credit: 3 Hours.
An interdisciplinary survey of native religious traditions, exploring the breadth and depth of spiritual expression among native people in North America. Assigned readings and class discussions cover a variety of important themes including sacred landscapes, mythic narratives, oral histories, communal identities, tribal values, elder teachings, visionary experiences, ceremonial practices, prayer traditions, and trickster wisdom. Students also consider historic encounters with missionary colonialism and contemporary strategies for religious self-determination. Class discussions are supplemented by audiovisual materials and guest speakers. Same as RLST 140.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 165 Lang & Culture Native North Am credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ANTH 165. See ANTH 165.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

AIS 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar credit: 1 to 5 Hours.
May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours.
AIS 265 Intro to American Indian Lit  credit: 3 Hours.
Introduces students to the study of American Indian literature by focusing on texts by contemporary American Indian novelists, poets, and playwrights. Over the course of the semester, students will consider how indigenous aesthetics shape narrative in addition to examining how American Indian authors engage the legacies of colonization and the histories of their tribal communities through their stories. Same as ENGL 265.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 275 Am Indian and Indigenous Film  credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to representations of American Indians and Indigenous peoples in film. Reconstructions of American Indians within the Western genre and more recent reconstructions by Native filmmakers will be considered. Other topics may include the development of an indigenous aesthetic; the role of documentaries and nonfiction films in the history of Native and Indigenous film; the role of commerce in the production of Native films. Same as ENGL 275 and MACS 275.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 277 Encounters in Native America  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 277. See HIST 277.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 278 Native American History  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 278. See HIST 278.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 280 Intro to Federal Indian Policy  credit: 3 Hours.
Traces the evolution of U.S. federal law as it pertains to American Indian nations. From the doctrine of discovery, through which European nations asserted control over the lands they claimed, to the processes of reorganization and recognition that have shaped contemporary rights and struggles native nations currently face, this class will interrogate how American Indian nations were transformed into "domestic dependent nations".

AIS 285 Indigenous Thinkers  credit: 3 Hours.
An introduction to the English-language traditions of indigenous intellectuals. Specific topics vary. May be repeated in the same term to a maximum of 6 hours. May be repeated in subsequent terms to a maximum of 9 hours.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

AIS 288 American Indians of Illinois  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ANTH 288 and HIST 288. See ANTH 288.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 291 Independent Study  credit: 1 to 6 Hours.
Supervised reading and research in American Indian Studies chosen by the student with instructor approval. Approved for both letter and S/U grading. May be repeated in the same or separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: One course in American Indian Studies and consent of instructor.

AIS 295 US Citizenship Comparatively  credit: 3 Hours.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AIS 430 Indigenous Governance  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Indigenous peoples have long and rich traditions of governance and political philosophies that have shaped institutions and informed diplomacies amongst each other and with European nations. This course examines the indigenous governance historically and within contemporary contexts with emphasis on the importance of sovereignty within institutions, education, language revitalization, and cultural resurgence. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Any 100 or 200-level American Indian Studies course or consent of instructor.

AIS 451 Politics in Children's Lit  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Students will revisit classic and popular children's books, applying critical theoretical perspectives to texts with the purpose of examining ideologies behind their creation, publication, review, distribution, and consumption. An emphasis will be placed on texts by and about American Indians. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Fulfillment of the Advanced Composition requirement; junior standing or above; or consent of instructor.

AIS 459 Topics in American Indian Lit  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Interdisciplinary seminar on special and advanced topics in American Indian and Indigenous Literatures. Same as ENGL 459. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated in the same or subsequent terms to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One year of college literature or consent of instructor.

AIS 461 Politics of Popular Culture  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Concerned with interdisciplinary frameworks that allow us to 'read' popular culture as well as with its actual forms and specific artifacts, this course seeks, first, to grasp how popular culture has legitimized the colonization of American Indian peoples and second, to reflect on the ways in which Indians engage popular culture to assert an anti-oppression politics. Same as MACS 461. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Credit is not given for both AIS 461 and MACS 320 or MDIA 570. Prerequisite: Any 100 or 200-level American Indian Studies course or consent of the instructor.

AIS 481 History of Amer Indian Educ  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Students will study various efforts to "civilize" American Indians through US government initiatives and religious churches, as well as educational models developed by tribal entities following passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975. Same as EPS 481. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

AIS 490 Adv Topics in Am Ind Studies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Any course in American Indian Studies; junior standing; or consent of instructor.

AIS 491 Readings in Am Ind Studies  credit: 1 to 8 Hours.
Individual guidance in intensive readings in the theories and practices of the field of American Indian Studies. 1 to 8 undergraduate hours. 1 to 8 graduate hours. May be repeated in the same or subsequent terms to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or one course in AIS and consent of instructor.

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