Native American and Indigenous Studies

Interim Director
• Travis T. Vogan

Undergraduate minor: Native American and Indigenous studies

Undergraduate certificate: Native American and Indigenous studies

Graduate certificate: Native American and Indigenous studies

Faculty: https://nativeamericanstudies.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://nativeamericanstudies.uiowa.edu/

Native American and Indigenous studies (NAIS) is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the histories, cultures, literatures, and contemporary legal and political issues of Native North Americans and the Indigenous peoples of the world.

Students taking NAIS courses begin to understand the historical and contemporary social issues facing Indigenous peoples within the international and global context of settler colonialism. Courses provide students with a better understanding of ethnic, social, and political diversity. The curriculum provides students with teaching methods that cross conventional disciplinary boundaries, and that involve visiting and learning more about regional Native American communities. Through engagement with Native peoples from Iowa and the Midwest, students will learn how to communicate knowledge to audiences both within and beyond the classroom. Students thereby gain expertise for employment in advocacy, social services, health care, education, and other areas that require cross-cultural understanding and communication with diverse public audiences. Students also gain a background for more specialized or advanced study in a variety of disciplines, including anthropology; economics; education; ethnic studies; gender, women’s, and sexuality studies; geography; history; political science; psychology; religious studies; and social justice.

A certificate or minor in NAIS also complements preprofessional and professional training in areas such as health care, business, social work, and law.

The Native American and Indigenous Studies Program is administered by the Department of American Studies.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Minor
• Minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies

Certificate
• Certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies

Graduate Program of Study

Certificate
• Certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies

Courses

Native American and Indigenous Studies Courses

NAIS:1049 Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies 3 s.h.

NAIS:1095 Native American Art 3 s.h.
Survey of the visual arts of Indigenous peoples in North America with emphasis on regions that have become the United States; exploration of painting, sculpture, ceramics, fiber arts, performance, and architecture as expressions of identity, creativity, resistance, and resilience from ancestral traditions through transformations prompted by non-Native contact to today’s vibrant art scene. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; Values and Culture. Same as ARTH:1095.

NAIS:1290 Native American Foods and Foodways 3 s.h.
Native Americans as original farmers of 46% of the world’s table vegetables; examination of food as a cultural artifact (e.g., chocolate, tobacco); food as a primary way in which human beings express their identities; environmental, material, and linguistic differences that shape unique food cultures among Native peoples across the Western Hemisphere; close analysis of Indigenous foods, rituals, and gender roles associated with them; how colonization transformed Native American, European, and African American cultures. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as AMST:1290, GHS:1290, HIST:1290.

NAIS:1500 Topics in Native American and Indigenous Studies 3 s.h.
Native American and Indigenous peoples; concepts, problems, and issues.

NAIS:2165 Native Peoples of North America 3 s.h.

NAIS:2292 Native American Law and Policy: A History 3 s.h.
Native Americans are citizens of governments that predate the U.S.; what it means to be a citizen of a federally recognized tribe within the U.S.; exploration of the peculiar status of Native nations and their citizens since 1789. Same as AMST:2292, HIST:2292.

NAIS:2300 Native Americans in Film 3 s.h.
Representations of Native Americans in film from the western to science fiction and animation. Same as AMST:2300.

NAIS:2500 Indigenous Art, Land, and Social Justice 3 s.h.
Examples, readings, discussions, and special projects to examine contemporary visual, performance, and multimedia art by Native North American and other Indigenous artists as a component of broader indigenous activism for social justice and defense of land.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3110</td>
<td>Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3145</td>
<td>Excavation to Exhibit: Making Artifacts Public</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3240</td>
<td>Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3243</td>
<td>Archaeology of the American Midcontinent</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3257</td>
<td>North American Archaeology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3270</td>
<td>Colonial North America, ca. 1600-1775</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3272</td>
<td>Native Americans in the Age of Empires, ca. 1500-1815</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3289</td>
<td>The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3305</td>
<td>Human Osteology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3432</td>
<td>Agriculture Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3441</td>
<td>Native American Literature</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3502</td>
<td>History of Mexico</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3580</td>
<td>Native American Public Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:3580</td>
<td>Special Topics in Native American and Indigenous Studies</td>
<td>1-3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:4990</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:5099</td>
<td>American Indian and Native Studies Proseminar</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIS:6050</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in Native American and Indigenous Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NAIS:6099 Independent Study Project**  
arr.
Completion of a significant scholarly project that addresses the scope, goals, and ongoing development of Native American and Indigenous studies as an academic field; findings presented on campus (e.g., NAIS steering committee or in association with an NAIS-sponsored event) or at an academic conference.

**NAIS:6620 Readings in Native American Literatures**  
3 s.h.
Same as ENGL:6620.

**NAIS:7202 Readings: 20th-Century Native American History**  
arr.
Examination of the Indigenous 20th century through a series of themes including settler colonialism, sovereignty and self-determination, federal Indian policy, and Indigenous feminism; readings focus primarily on secondary sources, but attention is given to key primary sources; students are required to carry out specified research tasks. Same as HIST:7202.