Native American Studies

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The University of Oregon offers a minor in Native American studies, housed in the Department of Ethnic Studies.

Native American studies is an interdisciplinary field that uses multiple approaches—from history, anthropology, law, literature, ethnic studies, and other disciplines—to understand contemporary Native American lives, and to examine Native American identities, practices, histories, cultures, and political statuses in context from the earliest times until the present. Academically, the central goal of the minor in Native American studies is to inform students about the unique place of tribes in the state-tribal-federal intergovernmental matrix and about the myriad distinct issues native peoples of the United States face, from language and cultural protection to environmental issues to economic development. In a state with nine federally recognized indigenous nations and a Native American population 50 percent higher proportionally than the national average, this is critical information for future leaders in all fields.

Undergraduate Studies

Students may earn a minor in Native American studies. A secondary goal of the program is to encourage student awareness of the ethnic and cultural dimensions and applications of other major fields. Students of literature, social sciences, education, urban planning, art history, humanities, international studies—to name only a few—find that related Native American studies courses can enrich their academic programs.

Courses applied to a minor in Native American studies may be used to satisfy major or minor requirements for other programs.

Specific details and course approvals must be obtained from the Native American Studies Program.

Requirements for the Minor

The Native American studies minor requires 28 credits. At least 16 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to 4 credits may be counted toward the minor from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of Native American Studies, but which focus on other issues closely related to the field. Grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The course load is distributed as follows:

ES256	Introduction to Native American Studies	4
Additional Courses		24
16 credits must be in upper-division courses		
At least 4 credits focusing on Oregon Indians		
At least 4 credits in each of three distribution groups [1]		
Up to 4 credits may be taken from a list of related courses approved by a program advisor		
Total Credits		**28**

[1] Distribution groups: 1) culture, language, and education; 2) law, policy, governance, and history; 3) literature, media, and the arts.

Distribution Groups

Group 1: Culture, Language, and Education		
ANTH310	Exploring Other Cultures: [Topic] (Oregon Indians)	4
ANTH320	Native North Americans	4
ANTH410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Working with Oregon Tribes)	5
EDST456	Equal Opportunity: Colonization and Genocide	3
LING407	Seminar: [Topic] (Native Languages of Oregon)	1-5
LT199	Special Studies: [Topic] (Sahaptin Language; Tolowa and Lushootseed Language)	1-5
PHIL451	Native American Philosophy	4
Group 2: Law, Policy, Governance, and History		
ENVS411	Environmental Issues: [Topic] (Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples)	4
ES350	Native Americans and the Environment	4
ES399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Introduction to Pacific Island Studies; Native American-African American Relations; Oregon Indian History)	1-5
ES407	Seminar: [Topic] (Native American Ethnohistory)	1-5
ES456	History of Native American Education	4
HC444H	Honors College American Cultures Colloquium: [Topic] (Race and Ethnicity in the American West)	4
HIST399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Pacific Northwest Indians)	5
HIST407	Seminar: [Topic] (Indian Nations in the United States)	5
HIST468	The Pacific Northwest	4
HIST469	American Indian History: [Topic]	4
PS410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (American Indian Politics)	1-4
Group 3: Literature, Media, and the Arts		
ARH463	Native American Architecture	4
ENG244	Introduction to Native American Literature	4
ENG361	Native American Writers	4
ENG468	Ethnic Literature: [Topic]	4
ES370	Race, Ethnicity, and Cinema: [Topic]	4
J412	Issues in Communication Studies: [Topic] (American Indians and the Media)	4
TA472	Multicultural Theater: [Topic] (Native American Theater)	4

Related Courses		4
ANTH310	Exploring Other Cultures: [Topic]	
ANTH344	Oregon Archaeology	
ANTH442	Northwest Coast Archaeology	

ANTH443	North American Archaeology
HIST482	Latin America's Indian Peoples