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 and tribal sovereignty. 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. The primary goal of the minor is to help students understand contemporary and historic native lives through attention to the politics, cultures, identities, and practices of Native American and indigenous peoples. 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 that focus on other issues closely related to the field. Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The course load is distributed as follows:

ES 256	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		
ANTH 310	Exploring Other Cultures: [Topic] (Oregon Indians)	4
ANTH 320	Native North Americans	4
EDST 456	Equal Opportunity: Colonization and Genocide	3
LING 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Native Languages of Oregon)	1-5
LT 199	Special Studies: [Topic] (Sahaptin Language; Tolowa and Lushootseed Language)	1-5
PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy	4
Group 2: Law, Policy, Governance, and History		
CAS 101H	Reacting to the Past (Topic: Forest Diplomacy and Red Clay)	4
ENVS 411	Environmental Issues: [Topic] (Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples)	4
ES 258	Introduction to Pacific Islander Studies	4
ES 350	Native Americans and the Environment	4
ES 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Oregon Indians)	4
ES 407	Seminar: [Topic] (Native American Ethnohistory; Native American and African American Relations; Native-Latinx Relations)	4
ES 456	History of Native American Education	4
HC 444H	Honors College American Cultures Colloquium: [Topic] (Race and Ethnicity in the American West; North Paiute History)	4
HIST 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Pacific Northwest Indians)	5
HIST 407	Seminar: [Topic] (Indian Nations in the United States)	5
HIST 468	The Pacific Northwest	4
HIST 469	American Indian History: [Topic]	4
PS 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (American Indian Politics)	1-5
Group 3: Literature, Media, and the Arts		
ARH 463	Native American Architecture	4
ENG 244	Introduction to Native American Literature	4
ENG 361	Native American Writers	4
ENG 468	Ethnic Literature: [Topic] (Native American Literature)	4
ENG 488	Race and Representation in Film: [Topic] (Native American Literature and Film)	4
ES 370	Race, Ethnicity, and Cinema: [Topic] (Native Americans and Film)	4
J 412	Issues in Communication Studies: [Topic] (American Indians and the Media)	4

TA 472	Multicultural Theater: [Topic] (Native American Theater)	4

Related Courses 4

ANTH 310	Exploring Other Cultures: [Topic] (Indigeneous Immigrants in Oregon) (Group 1)
ANTH 344	Oregon Archaeology (Group 1)
ANTH 434	Native South Americans (Group 1)
ANTH 442	Northwest Coast Archaeology (Group 1)
ANTH 443	North American Archaeology (Group 1)
HIST 482	Aztecs and Incas (Group 2)