Native American and Indigenous Studies (BA/BS)

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Native American and Indigenous Studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws upon multiple approaches from history, anthropology, law, literature, ethnic studies, and other disciplines to understand Native American history, culture, politics, and contemporary lives. NAIS highlights the unique place of tribes in the state-tribal-federal intergovernmental matrix and the myriad of distinct issues Native peoples of the United States face, from language and cultural protection to environmental issues to economic development and beyond.

Students in NAIS will join a diverse, tightly knit community of scholars who cherish our connections with Native communities and strive to make our work valuable for the project of building up Native nations. UO NAIS affords students extensive grounding in Indigenous history and culture as well as nuanced understanding of tribal sovereignty, Indigenous nationhood, settler colonialism, and the diversity and beauty of contemporary Indigenous lives and experiences.

Such work prepares students for a variety of postsecondary opportunities ranging from government, law, research, and education; to nonprofit and public interest work, environmental and resource management, and business and economic development; to the arts, journalism, communication, new media, and more. In a state with nine federally recognized indigenous nations and with a Native American population 50% higher proportionally than the national average, this knowledge is crucial for future leaders in all fields.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Articulate significance of Indigenous nations as political entities, not just ethnic or racial minorities.
- Apply gender as a critical analytic element in Indigenous studies in multiple ways.
- Gain at least partial competence in Indigenous languages.
- Demonstrate fluency in place-based knowledge in Indigenous studies of Oregon.
- Apply academic knowledge to issues in tribal communities and contexts.

Undergraduate Studies

Students may earn an undergraduate major in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) housed in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies (IRES). The primary goal of the NAIS major is to provide students extensive grounding in Indigenous history and culture as well as nuanced understandings of tribal sovereignty, Indigenous nationhood, and the diversity and beauty of contemporary Indigenous idenities, lives, and experiences across the Americas and throughout the Pacific. A secondary goal of the program is to encourage student awareness of the ethnic and cultural dimensions and applications of other major fields of study. Students of literature, social sciences, education, urban planning, arts, humanities, law, and international studies—to name only a few—find that related Native American and Indigenous Studies courses greatly enrich their academic programs. This foundation prepares students for diverse career paths including tribal political leadership, education and administration, social services/social work, language revitalization and instruction, environmental policy, natural/cultural resources management, law, cultural heritage preservation, the arts, journalism and new media, and community/economic development.

Up to 3 courses, or 12 credits, applied to the Native American and Indigenous Studies major may used to satisfy major or minor requirements for other programs. All courses applied to a minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies may be used to satisfy major or minor requirements for other programs.

Specific details and course approvals must be obtained from the director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies program (nastudies@uoregon.edu).

Requirements for the Major: Conventional Track

The conventional track of the Native American and Indigenous Studies major requires 56 credits. At least 28 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to two courses, or 8 credits, may be counted toward the major from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of NAIS but that focus on other issues closely related to the field (see course list below). Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The conventional track requires one year of Native language classes that may be fulfilled at the University of Oregon or any other accredited institution or tribal partner. See program director for details. The course load is distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ES 256	Introduction to Native American Studies	4
Additional lower division elective		4
One year of Ichishkiin or Chinuk Wawa (or other Indigenous language) (3 quarters/12 credits)		12
Upper Division Courses		
Six upper-division electives from approved courses list, one of which must be in NAIS group 3 (literature/media/creative arts)		24
ES 321	Indigenous Peoples of Oregon	4
ES 468	Indigenous Research Methods and Ethics Students who elect to pursue a senior research practicum (ES 409) will need to be concurrently enrolled in or have satisfactorily completed this course	4
ES 470	Native American and Indigenous Feminisms (OR WGS 251: Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms) Students who fulfill this requirement with WGS 251 may do so via a lower division elective; they will still need to fulfill all upper division requirements for the major.	4
Total Credits		**56**

Requirements for the Major: Language Track

The language track of the Native American and Indigenous Studies major requires 56 credits. At least 28 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to two courses, or 8 credits, may be counted toward the major from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of NAIS but that focus on other issues closely related to the field (see course list below). Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The language track requires two years of Indigenous language classes that may be taken at the University of Oregon or any other accredited institution or tribal partner. See program director for details. The course load is distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ES 256	Introduction to Native American Studies	4
Two years (6 quarters) of Ichishkiin (UO), Chinuk Wawa (LCC), or other Indigenous language		24
Upper Division Courses		
Four upper-division electives from approved courses list, one of which must be in NAIS group 3 (literature/media/creative arts)		16
ES 321	Indigenous Peoples of Oregon	4
ES 468	Indigenous Research Methods and Ethics Students who elect to pursue a senior research practicum (ES 409) will need to be concurrently enrolled in or have satisfactorily completed this course.	4
ES 470	Native American and Indigenous Feminisms (OR WGS 251: Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms) Students who fulfill this requirement with WGS 251 may do so via a lower division elective; they will still need to fulfill all upper division requirements for the major.	4
Total Credits		**56**

Distribution Groups

Code	Title	Credits
Group 1: Culture, Language, and Education		
ANTH 248	Archaeology of Wild Foods	4
ANTH 320	Native North Americans	4
ANTH 434	Native South Americans	4
ANTH 442	Northwest Coast Archaeology	4
ANTH 443	North American Archaeology	4
ANTH 438	Race and Gender in Latin America	4
EDST 410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Indigenous Principles of Education)	1-5
EDST 456	Decolonization and Education	4
ES 196	Field Studies: [Topic] (w/approval of NAIS director/adviser)	1-5
ES 199	Special Studies: [Topic]	1-5
ES 404	Internship: [Topic] (w/approval of NAIS director/adviser)	1-12
ES 406	Practicum: [Topic]	1-12
ICH 101	First-Year Ichishki´in	5
ICH 102	First-Year Ichishki´in	5
ICH 103	First-Year Ichishki´in	5
ICH 201	Second-Year Ichishki´in	5
ICH 202	Second-Year Ichishki´in	5
ICH 203	Second-Year Ichishki´in	5
LING 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Indigenous Languages of Oregon)	1-5
LT 199	Special Studies: [Topic] (Sahaptin Language; Tolowa and Lushootseed Language; Other Indigenous Language)	1-5
PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy	4
Group 2: Law, Policy, Governance, and History		
ENVS 411	Environmental Issues: [Topic] (Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples)	4
ENVS 435	Environmental Justice	4
ES 258	Introduction to Pacific Islander Studies	4
ES 321	Indigenous Peoples of Oregon	4
ES 350	Native Americans and the Environment	4
ES 456	History of Native American Education	4
ES 464	Relational Studies of Indigeneity, Race and Culture: [Topic] (Black-Indian Relations; Latinx-Indigenous Relations)	4
ES 466	Native American Ethnohistory	4
ES 468	Indigenous Research Methods and Ethics	4
ES 470	Native American and Indigenous Feminisms	4
HC 431H	Honors College Social Science Colloquium: [Topic] (w/approval of NAIS director/adviser)	4
HC 444H	HC US: Difference, Inequality, Agency Colloquium: [Topic] (Race and Ethnicity in the American West; North Paiute History; Search for Cayuse Five; Others w/permission of NAIS director/adviser)	4
HIST 211	Reacting to the Past (w/approval of NAIS director/adviser)	4
HIST 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Pacific Northwest Indians; Others w/approval of NAIS director/adviser)	4
HIST 407	Seminar: [Topic] (Indian Nations in the United States; Others w/permission of NAIS director/adviser)	5
HIST 468	The Pacific Northwest (Native American/Indigenous Focus)	4
HIST 469	American Indian History: [Topic]	4
HIST 473	American Environmental History: [Topic] (Indigenous Environmental History)	4
HIST 482		4
HIST 483	Latin America: [Topic] (Indigenous Peoples of Latin America)	4
PS 390	American Indian Politics	4
WGS 251	Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms	4
Group 3: Literature, Media, and the Arts		
ANTH 410	Experimental Course: [Topic] (Native Americans in Film)	1-5
ENG 244	Introduction to Native American Literature	4

ENG 315	Women Writers' Cultures: [Topic] (Native American/Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 316	Women Writers' Forms: [Topic] (Native American/Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 361	Native American Writers	4
ENG 381M	Film, Media, and Culture (Native American/ Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 468	Ethnic Literature: [Topic] (Native American/ Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 469	Literature and the Environment: [Topic] (Native American/Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 479	Major Authors: [Topic] (Native American/ Indigenous Writers)	4
ENG 485	Television Studies (Native American/ Indigenous Focus)	4
ENG 488	Race and Representation in Film: [Topic] (Native American/Indigenous Focus)	4
ES 370	Race, Ethnicity, and Cinema: [Topic] (Native Americans and Film)	4
J 412	Issues in Communication Studies: [Topic] (Indigenous Peoples & the Media)	4
TA 472	Multicultural Theater: [Topic] (Native American Theater)	4